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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-211
Tuesday
1 November 1994

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-211 *1 November 1994*

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicatJ whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin Calls Lebanese Peace Offer 'Interesting'

NC3110143294 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 31 (AFP)—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin described Monday [31 October] as "interesting" Beirut's offer of a six-month ceasefire in return for a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

"It's an interesting proposal as long as the Lebanese do not demand a prior Israeli commitment to withdraw within six months," Rabin told Israeli military radio.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi announced Sunday he was ready to accept Rabin's initiative to set up immediately a joint political and military commission to negotiate over six months a timetable for withdrawal from the 850 square kilometre 'security zone".

Hrawi's offer came a day after he was briefed on the telephone by Syrian President Hafez al-Assad on his meeting with US President Bill Clinton in Damascus on Thursday.

Rabin said he had discussed the proposal with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Casablanca on Sunday.

In August, Rabin put forward a withdrawal over nine months in exchange for the prior disarming of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, which spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in the region.

Lebanon has not held talks with Israel since February and progress depends largely on Damascus, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

'Arafat Aide: No Agreement Reached on Elections

JN3110194194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser of His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, said that Palestinians were disappointed by the Israeli position on the legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

At a news conference in Casablanca today, Kanafani said that the meeting between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister in Casablanca the day before yesterday did not lead to an agreement on the subject of elections and that the Israeli side did not demonstrate the same seriousness toward this issue as the Palestinian side.

Kanfani said there will be no elections before the Israeli Army's redeployment and withdrawal from the populous areas in the occupied Palestinian area.

Saudi Businessman To Distribute Israeli Newspaper

TA3110191994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first Israeli-Saudi communications deal has come to light: Saudi billionaire Adnan Khashoggi will distribute the Israeli business newspaper TELEGRAPH in Arab countries. The deal, including partnerships between the Israeli newspaper and Arab media, among other things, was signed by Avi Tiomkin, chairman of the TELEGRAPH board of directors, and Khashoggi himself. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, now in Casablanca, has the details: [passage omitted]

[Sukenik] The idea is for TELEGRAPH to be gradually distributed in various Arab countries. Khashoggi will sign a contract with the local media in each of these countries in order to produce a newspaper that will meet the need for up-to-date information on developments and business opportunities in Israel and various Arab countries.

Khashoggi, a well-known arms dealer with extensive secret connections, has never made an overt deal with Israelis. He will be the TELEGRAPH's exclusive representative in the Arab world. The deal includes partnerships, projects, as well as financial events. To launch the deal, an office is being set up in Morocco, and another will be set up in Egypt later on, with plans for more offices in other Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia. Although Khashoggi refused comment, the Saudi royal family is apparently about to grant him the first-ever permit to market an Israeli product in Saudi Arabia. His son Muhammad Khashoggi will be deeply involved in this project.

Another important fact: Khashoggi has purchased an option for 10 percent ownership in the Israeli TELEGRAPH. Avi Tiomkin, chairman of the TELEGRAPH board of direction, told us in a telephone conversation a short while ago that the deal constitutes a breakthrough in the relations between Israel and the Arab world, and that in the wake of this exposure, and since TELEGRAPH trades on the U.S. stock exchange, the latter will be notified of the deal tonight.

In addition, Khashoggi has initiated a $200-million Palestinian entrepreneurship fund that will assist small-scale Palestinian businessmen, while his wife is establishing a fund for the welfare of the region's children. He wanted 'Arafat and Peres to announce this at the conclusion of the Casablanca conference, but I do not know whether they will. [passage omitted]

Tunisia, Israel Agree To Cooperate on Environment

TA0111105194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Nov 94 p 14

[Report by Yitzhaq Bar-Yosef]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunisian and Israeli experts will carry out reciprocal visits and cooperate on environmental issues. This was decided upon yesterday at a

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meeting in Tunisia between Environment Minister Yosi Sarid and his Tunisian counterpart Mohamed Mehid Mlika.

Sarid is currently in Tunisia attending a conference of environment ministers from Mediterranean countries.

The minister said that the atmosphere at the meeting has been "very friendly." In response to the Israeli minister's proposal that both countries upgrade the level of their relations, Mlika said that "this will undoubtedly happen in the future." The Tunisian minister noted that at any time cooperation could be stepped up in several fields, including the environment.

Paper Says Denmark May Host Syrian-Israeli Talks

JN2910170894 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 23 Oct 94 p 22

[Report by 'Arif Salim]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Copenhagen is following Oslo's lead. Political observers believe that the Syrian position as a whole does not enjoy Washington's total approval for two main reasons: First, this position violates the policy that Washington itself has been following since the Camp David accords; second, Washington refuses to acknowledge a regional role for Syria. Thus, what can be the way out?

Some believe that Denmark is the answer, based on the great importance Damascus attached to Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen's visit to Damascus late last month. When Petersen arrived in Damascus, a Danish spokesman said the minister was not carrying any specific proposals regarding the peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track. The spokesman, however, stressed Denmark's readiness to help promote the peace negotiations.

Perhaps Denmark wished to follow the example, or even vie with, its neighbor Norway, which managed to hold secret Palestinian-Israeli meetings in its capital, Oslo. Will Copenhagen host Syrian- Israeli meetings to overcome the largest current obstacles in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations? Here we should note that the declared Syrian rejection of secret negotiations is not an absolute rejection; it actually entails a refusal to engage in bargaining over any national or pan-Arab right. Damascus has actually held secret indirect negotiations with the Israelis; it gave the green light to a number of Syrian intellectuals to meet with Israeli counterparts in undeclared seminars.

In the archives of Syria's foreign relations there is nothing to indicate that it has had distinguished ties with Denmark. Moreover, no Danish foreign minister has visited Syria for 16 years. Following this long period of time, observers have noticed that Petersen's visit to Damascus came at a time when the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track faced critical circumstances. It also came prior to a new tour by the U.S. secretary of state or his envoy amid no signs of optimism. Furthermore, Petersen said upon arriving in Damascus that the peace process will be the main issue he would discuss with the Syrian officials. This was actually the main issue discussed in the meeting between the Danish minister and President al-Asad, which lasted more than four hours. Immediately after this meeting, Petersen left Damascus after expressing his conviction that the peace process is proceeding on the right path. Will this path pass through Copenhagen? [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Ceremony Marks Opening of Rafah Border Crossing

JN3110194494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian flag was raised for the first time today on the Rafah border crossing, which separates the National Authority area from the Republic of Egypt. Palestinians, headed by Brigadier General Ziyad al-Atrash, have just taken over the Rafah crossing. Brig. Gen. Ziyad al-Atrash described the move as an important step on the road to peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

In a speech he gave during the ceremony, he said that something similar to what happened today at the Rafah crossing will happen tomorrow, Tuesday, at the Allenby Bridge crossing, which will also be handed over to Palestinians.

In the meantime, Palestinian police officers displayed pictures of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat. They also erected a sign post with the words "The Palestinian National Authority Welcomes Arrivals" in Arabic, English, and Hebrew.

The Palestinian side, headed by Brig. Gen. Ziyad al-Atrash, and the Israeli side headed by Ari'el Cheveman [name as heard] had earlier met with Palestinian and Israeli employees at the crossing before it was handed over to Palestinians. They toured the border crossing afterward.

Apparently, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Minister of Planning and International cooperation, and General Dani Rothschild signed an agreement on the border crossings in Casablanca today.

Cheveman had handed Brig. Gen. al-Atrash a copy of the crossings agreement. Tomorrow, Palestinians will start the supervision of the crossing.

New Opposition Party Formed in Territories

JN2910143094 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A document has been issued indicating that a new Palestinian party opposing the self-rule authority has been formed and is based in the occupied territories.

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The party document, which was issued by the new party, calling itself the Palestinian National Independence Party [hizb al-istiqlal al-watani al-filastini], says that the organizational body of the party consists of young cadres and elements from the Fatah Movement in particular, and from the rest of the Palestinian national and democratic organizations in general.

The document hints that there are connections between the party's leadership and Fatah Central Committee Members 'Abbas Zaki and Muhammad Jihad. [passage omitted]

First Autonomy Airport Planned for Gaza Strip

TA3010090794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The autonomy's first airport will be built in the Gaza Strip. In the wake of Yasir 'Arafat's orders to build it in the area of Shawkat al-Sufi south of Rafah, the Palestinians are examining the offers of dozens construction companies.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinians' plan to build an airport in the Jericho area is being delayed.

PFLP Men Freed; Hamas Says Israel Inciting Civil War

TA3010145594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police today released the remaining eight members of Nayif Hawatimah's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] of those who were arrested on suspicion of firing at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrols in the Gaza Strip. Jawdat (Sawarka), a member of the PFLP central committee in the Gaza Strip, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that he condemns the oppressive steps of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and demands that it also free the 25 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists who are still in prison.

In the Gaza Strip, Hamas has published a leaflet calling on the PA not to respond to Israel's demands to fight Hamas in the autonomy boundaries. The leaflet accuses Prime Minister Rabin of inciting the PA to launch a civil war against Hamas. In the leaflet, Hamas stresses that it is resolutely against any kind of civil war among the Palestinians.

Hamas Envoy Denounces Jordan-Israel Agreement

NC2910091694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A sit-in was staged in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp yesterday to denounce the signing of the Jordanian-Zionist agreement. Addressing the crowd, Mustafa al-Liddawi, a representative of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], viewed what is happening on the Egyptian, Palestinian, and Jordanian tracks as a betrayal of God, the Prophet and his trust, peoples, sanctities, and blood spilled, and as a relinquishment of all rights and sanctities. What happened in Wadi al-'Arabah, al-Liddawi said, is the most serious Israeli penetration of the Arab front. He called on the Jordanian people to resist and foil the agreement.

Hamas Official Views Jerusalem Operation

NC2810164294 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p 17

[Interview with Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the political bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, by 'Imad Murtada; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Murtada] In a statement issued on the heroic Jerusalem operation, al-Qassam Battalion said that this operation represents a new stage on the road of holy jihad. We noticed that the battalion used the expression "two of the seekers of martyrdom" in the statement to identify the two martyrs who fell while carrying out the operation. Can we say that Hamas has decided to pursue the road of martyrdom operations to resist occupation?

[Abu-Marzuq] First of all, martyrdom is the goal of every Muslim, and death represents the ideal wish of the mujahid on the land of Palestine. This was not the first martyrdom operation carried out by the heroes of the al-Qassam Battalion. It was rather one of the successive operations. However, this operation was carried out to commemorate the al-Aqsa massacre, which claimed the lives of scores of Palestinian people as they were performing the prayers and preventing the desecration of al-Aqsa from the enemies' filth.

Those people are seekers of martyrdom and they will remain so, God willing. Perhaps this statement confirms that death is the mujahidin's wish.

[Murtada] The Zionist enemy said that 'Isam al-Jawhari, one of the two martyrs, was a Palestinian policeman from the 'Ayn Jalut forces that moved to Gaza from Egypt. Sources said that al-Jawhari joined the al-Qassam Battalion while performing his duty as a policeman.

[Abu-Marzuq] Surely, we believe that the Palestinian police corps members will one day join the ranks of their people against the enemy. Rabin and Peres should never dream that the police corps will ever become a new Lahd [reference to the South Lebanese Army]. Events will demonstrate that the police corps will always be on the side of the Palestinian people.

[Murtada] As for the timing of the operation, al-Qassam Battalion said that it coincided with the advent of the al-Aqsa massacre. It also coincided with the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher in occupied Palestine. The operation took place near the hotel where

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Christopher stayed. Did Hamas mean to send messages through this operation, including one to the Americans?

[Abu-Marzuq] As I said before, this is a tenacious stance. It was also a message to the U.S. secretary to make him understand the extent of the Palestinian people's sufferings and their struggle to obtain their rights. The message demonstrates that there can be no stability in the region as long as the Arab rights in Palestine and the Palestinian rights are usurped. Rights cannot be regained through their method. This is a fait accompli in return for a few dollars to buy the Palestinian voice. This method cannot resolve the issue. Christopher should regard the Palestinian issue in a balanced and equal way so that he can feel the Palestinian wound and the extent of injustice imposed on the Palestinian people. This operation is a message to him and he should feel this wound.

[Murtada] How do you expect 'Arafat to carry out Christopher's orders?

[Marzuq] 'Arafat has pledged to halt the operations since he signed the Cairo Accord. He openly said this and he is greatly committed to his pledge. 'Arafat has nothing to do with such jihad operations nor can he halt them.

From the beginning, the Hamas Movement declared its rejection of this accord and said it will continue the jihad line. Therefore, it continues to be committed to the vow it made to Almighty God, the Palestinian people, and the Islamic nation and it will maintain this stance.

If Rabin or Christopher ask 'Arafat to halt these operations, I believe this request will have the same fate of previous requests.

[Murtada] Do you expect 'Arafat to launch a campaign of arrests similar to previous campaigns against Hamas Movement mujahidin?

[Marzuq] Naturally, we do not expect him to make arrests because the operation was not carried out in the administrative self-rule-dominated area. On the other hand, we do not believe he acted properly by arresting Hamas members after the heroic operation on the Egyptian-Palestinian border.

He released these people because there is a nation that judges the acts of this authority and he is no longer free regarding arrests and other things. But if he does arrest one of the brothers in the Gaza Strip, the nation will be lying in wait for him.

[Murtada] What is your comment on Rabin's statement that the attack was aimed at destroying the prospects of peace? He said Israel will fight Hamas with every force and that it did not want to engage in negotiations as dictated by Hamas.

[Marzuq] It is a known fact that Rabin has not been at peace with Hamas or has made a truce with it. He declared war on Hamas long ago and the war is wide open between the movement and Rabin. If he thinks he frightens people with his threats, he has done this before and has frightened no one.

Regarding these negotiations, even if he succeeds in one of two rounds he will not be able to impose his wish on the entire nation; it is a matter of time and we will carry on full of resolve and are confident of God's support.

[Murtada] Enemy Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres called for, in his words, uprooting terrorism by improving the economic situation and living standards in the self-rule areas. What is your comment?

[Marzuq] Actually, people do not sense their rights by way of filling their stomachs. There are rights that the Palestinian people will continue to demand regardless of whether their economic situation improves of worsens. The Palestinian people will continue to defend their rights no matter what their living circumstances are.

Surely Rabin says this all the time and he believes that an improved economic situation is the key to the peace process in the occupied territories. But we say that the key to peace is the attainment of all rights and the return of holy sites to their owners.

Hamas Officials on Arrests, Other Issues

JN3110173194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 94 p 5

[Report from Ra'fat Yahya in Islamabad and Hashim 'Ali Mandi in Vienna]

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Nazzal, spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated that Israel's threats to destroy Hamas indicate the crisis Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is facing, as well as his failure to confront the movement.

In statements to AL-HAYAH in Islamabad, where he was attending an Islamic conference, Nazzal said that it was impossible to destroy Hamas without first destroying the whole Palestinian people. He also said that the movement would go ahead with its program until the end without paying any attention to such statements.

Nazzal added that Israel's decision to close the Gaza Strip and the West Bank would entrench the theory that says coexistence between the occupation and the Palestinian people is impossible, ruling out that the decision would succeed. He also said the decision is a serious development and is seen as a nail in the coffin of the so-called current normalization process.

Asked about the economic suffering resulting from the closure decision, he said the economic suffering of the Palestinian people has been going on since the Israeli occupation and is becoming more serious day after day, and that the Israeli occupation, rather than Hamas, is responsible for that because the occupation was eager from the beginning to concentrate development in

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Jewish areas and linked the Palestinian economy to its own economy—a move which has prevented any development of the Palestinian economy. Nazzal stressed that the Israeli policy of starvation will not affect the course of resistance. Rather, it will give the movement the leverage to take more military actions.

Regarding the nature of the future relationship with the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza in light of the arrest of Hamas members and supporters, he said that the movement does not want to clash with the PA because, he said, we do not want to enable the enemy to divert the battle from its Palestinian-Israeli course to the inter-Palestinian course, adding that experience shows that Hamas has prevented this and that the other party should also avoid such a clash.

Referring to the recent arrest campaign by the PA, Nazzal said that the campaign would benefit Hamas and not the PA because the arrests are taking place just to prevent conflict with the enemy and that the PA's presence in the Israeli trench will add to the assets of Hamas because the Palestinian people, including those who support or oppose Hamas, will not accept that new type of Palestinian action. Nazzal advised the PA to back the interests of the Palestinian people and to abandon the policy of arrests. He added that Hamas' resistance plan is strategic and an irrevocable option as long as the occupation holds Palestine's land. He also said the abduction of the Israeli soldier was aimed at securing the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and a group of Palestinian prisoners, adding that it is Yitzhaq Rabin who was responsible for the killing of the Israeli soldier. Rabin, he said, could have reached an agreement to release Shaykh Yasin but he used some information about the location of the Israeli soldier to carry out an operation and to appear as an Israeli hero who succeeded in releasing the Israeli soldier.

[FBIS Translated Text] Nazzal noted that the fact Hamas extended the grace period by 24 hours reflects the good intentions of the movement. He held the Palestinian Authority responsible for providing Israel with information on the whereabouts of the Israeli soldier, considering this a serious development in the Palestinian Authority's dealing with Israel.

He said the bombing of the Israeli bus is an exceptional case and came in retaliation for the Ibrahimi Mosque operation and the Israeli authority's killing of civilian Palestinians. He said that after the Afula and Hadera operations, Hamas announced its readiness to stop the killing of Israeli civilians in return for similar action by the Israeli Army. However, he added that the Israeli authorities did not respond to this offer, and therefore, should be held responsible for any operation that was or will be carried in the future.

Responding to a question on the participation of an Egyptian in one of the operations inside Palestine, he said the man came from Egypt bearing a tourist visa, and then joined the 'Izz-al-Din al- Qassam Battalions in the Gaza Strip, expressing his desire to be a martyr for the sake of God in Palestine. He added that no one has the right to prevent the realization of the aspirations of this young man, who was very eager to liberate the holy lands from the Israeli occupation.

Nazzal said the martyrdom of an Egyptian in Palestine is a consecration of the Arab and Islamic character of the Palestinian cause and an emphasis of the unity of blood and experience among the nation's sons. He added that this is also a blow to the process of normalization between Egypt and Israel. He said that the Israeli enemy thought that the Egyptians would come to the Haifa and Yafo beaches, but they were astounded at this new type of tourism. He noted that there are thousands of young men who wait for an opportunity like that given to this Egyptian young man.

In Vienna, the Hamas spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghawshah, called on the Palestinian president to step down from power, holding him accountable for the massacre that took place in Jerusalem in which the kidnapped Israeli soldier and a number of kidnappers from Hamas movement were killed.

In an interview with the Austrian weekly magazine PROFIL published yesterday, Ghawshah said the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat had informed the Israeli authorities about the place where the Israeli soldier was held. He added that the movement was not intending to kill the kidnapped Israeli soldier, but rather it was seeking to exchange him for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons.

Ghawshah stated that 'Arafat is no longer a leader of the Palestinian people but a traitor and an agent of thet Israeli police, carrying out the orders of Israeli generals. He said if 'Arafat insists on pursuing his personal interests, he must relinquish power and admit that he has failed.

Ghawshah said the Palestinian people at home support Hamas, which is also supported by some of 'Arafat's followers, as appeared in the mass demonstrations of Palestinians who surrounded 'Arafat's headquarters in Gaza.

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Algeria

Army on Alert; FIS Barred From Making Contacts

MM0111120194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, London, AL-HAYAH—The severity of the violence has increased on the eve of the celebrations marking the beginning of the revolution against French occupation. In a development proving that the dialogue between the regime and the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is back to square one, it was learned yesterday that FIS leaders Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj have been prevented from receiving visitors or contacts in their residence. It was also learned that the Army has been put on high alert a few hours before the speech delivered to the nation by President Liamine Zeroual in the evening. [passage omitted]

It was noted in the capital, Algiers, that security forces have been placed on alert to deal with any emergency. And military roadblocks have been set up at the approaches of the capital and the main crossroads in it. It was also learned that the People's National Army has been placed on "high alert."

With regard to the authorities' dealing with FIS leaders, it has been learned that Cheikh Belhadj has been prevented from receiving his brother, who usually brings him the newspapers and magazines every morning. It is not known whether the measures against the two cheikhs will affect the other released FIS leaders. However, it has been learned from judicial sources that there is a possibility of referring Cheikh Belhadj to the court in the capital "to stand trial for his two messages addressed to the terrorists." [passage omitted]

Zeroual Meets With Political Parties' Representatives

LD2910162594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Oct 94

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Head of State Liamine Zeroual this morning received at the presidency representatives of six parties, they were Abdallah Djaballah, leader of Ennahda Movement, Mahfouz Nahna, leader of the Islamic Society Movement [HAMAS], Khaled Bensmail, secretary general of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, Nourreddine Boukrouh, leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal, Bousaad Boudiaf, representative of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, and Sa'id Khelil, the acting secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front.

The head of state briefed the representatives of the six political parties on the results of the dialogue, and especially the contacts between the presidency and the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

Following the meeting, the representatives of both the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria refused to give any comments, while the representatives of the other four political parties made the following comments:

At the beginning Mr. Said Khelil, the acting secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front said:

[Khelil] *He gave us the outcome of the dialogue and contacts with the parties and the dissolved FIS, and we made a resume. Anyhow, he is continuing the contacts and will speak to the people, and this is what he told the parties about.*

[Announcer] HAMAS leader Cheikh Mahfouz Nahna spoke about the contents of the meeting between the head of state and the representatives of the political parties:

[Nahna] *Today's meeting was a summation of the previous dialogue conducted with the absent parties, the present parties, and the excluded parties. We listened to this summation with great interest and we are awaiting our meetings at the Islamic Society Movement to make the appropriate decisions and positions that will first, satisfy the almighty God, and second, to shoulder the responsibility, and third, to prevent the fire from spreading to other places.*

We consider that this deep and acute crisis at this transitional period cannot be abated except through tolerance, dialogue, shaking hands, and concessions to serve the interest of this badly-treated people all these years. Thank you.

[Announcer] The leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal, Mr. Nourreddine Boukrouh, was not optimistic in his assessment of the outcome of the dialogue and the various contacts, especially the bilateral.

[Boukrouh] *The outcome was not positive. We cannot hide this from ourselves. There was, actually, a kind of deadlock in the dialogue and public opinion is aware of this because the people have been following this dialogue and had great hopes. However, the results were not up to the level of these general expectations. In fact, so far the results achieved by the dialogue are not on par with the hopes of the people. However, we continue to believe in the necessity of continuing the dialogue. These difficulties were expected. The important thing is to remain committed to the principle of dialogue and the principle of searching for a peaceful solution. This endeavor could face difficulties and we are in these difficulties.*

[Announcer] Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of Ennahda Islamic Movement, stressed the necessity of continuing the dialogue and sees that the measures taken so far were not enough.

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[Djaballah] *I have nothing new to say today because the meeting was to brief us about government efforts during this period. To sum up, the government sees that the FIS, represented by its leadership, is still adhering to its old positions and that the regime has carried out its share of the responsibility.*

We hope the dialogue will continue and the conviction that it is the ideal means to solve the crisis of the country will continue. We also hope that the search will continue for adequate means for the success of the national dialogue. In our view, to get out of the existing deadlock, it is imperative on all to believe in the necessity for concessions. Clinging to the same positions and insisting on only one alternative is not in the interest of the country, and not in the interest of any party. Thank you.

[Announcer] It is worth mentioning that the National Liberation Front [FLN] and Ettahadi Movement were absent from today's meeting. If the absence of the Ettahadi Movement was expected, due to its refusal to meet Islamic parties, the nonparticipation of the FLN remains a source of questions, particularly because it had taken part in all the multilateral meetings since its inception last August.

It is also worth mentioning that Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi, the official spokesman of the presidency, will hold a news conference this afternoon.

Zeroual Statement to Representatives

LD2910235094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 94

[Statement by President Liamine Zeroual to political party representatives on 29 October; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Messrs. political party officials, I do thank you for responding to the invitations I sent to you to attend this meeting, during which I would like to brief you on the state of the national dialogue. You do recall that immediately after coming to office, I started to promote national dialogue. In this context and following previous initiatives, on 8 August, I sent an invitation to eight political parties in order to stimulate national dialogue with complete openness. In addition to it being an expression of a personal conviction of mine, reviving national dialogue in this way is an expression of a strong determination to find answers to the aspirations of the Algerian people in the face of the difficult situation they have been experiencing for several years. These are the reasons behind the efforts I am making for the sake of dialogue; efforts that are completely subjected to no internal or external pressure as some people enjoy to claim.

Thus we held four multilateral meetings between 21 August and 20 September and some parties attended these meetings while other parties declined the invitation addressed to them.

The parties that participated in these meetings noticed that apart from the framework of the dialogue and its defined constant principles, all the other issues remained open to discussion. The public also followed all these discussions. It is true that the framework of the dialogue and its constant principles were defined in advance, because these elements reflect the contents of the Constitution and the laws of the country and the choices of our people. For this reason, these elements cannot be the subject of discussion or bargaining.

Throughout our four multilateral meetings, we were regrettably unable to make progress in our proceedings because many difficulties were raised and some expressed reservations about the framework and the constant principles of the dialogue and were wishing to restrict them.

In the same way, some political parties linked the success of the dialogue to taking measures to calm the situation by the state, which did take several measures in this regard.

I am eager to reiterate again that the appeasement measures taken by the government and all the measures taken by the state to facilitate reaching a political solution to the crisis were all out of the state's own will and in full sovereignty as it was determined to assume its national responsibilities in full.

Some other parties have recently said that real dialogue does not start without the participation of all the parties as well as the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS]. Faced with this situation and after the fourth multilateral meeting held on 20 September, participating political parties asked for the suspension of these meetings temporarily to allow for bilateral meetings to be held between various parties. I did agree to this demand. Bilateral dialogue allowed us to meet with parties who were absent from the multilateral meetings.

In this framework, the head of state continues, two meetings were held with the socialist forces. We also had a meeting with the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Ettahadi party. The content of these meetings was published for the public.

Generally, we can conclude from these meetings that the dialogue, in the opinion of the parties concerned, remains subject to predetermined conditions. Objection or reservation concerning the framework of the dialogue and its bases has also been raised.

Moreover, these parties have been hinting that they were not prepared to join the multilateral dialogue. Furthermore, and at the same time in which bilateral meetings with political parties continued, contact continued with the leaders of the dissolved party, would like here to talk to you about the development of the situation with these officials.

When we resumed the dialogue with the political parties on 21 August, Mr. Abassi Madani sent a letter on his own

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on 23 August, in which he declared his commitments and his eagerness to work for ending the violence. I will remind you that this letter of Abassi Madani, and the letter he sent a few days after that, was delivered to the parties participating in the multilateral meetings. The head of state did not ignore this initiative and held contacts with officials of the dissolved party, and the political parties and the majority of public opinion showed interest and expressed hope in those developments.

After that, all the five detainees in Blida Prison participated in the signing of the letter dated 6 September in which they committed themselves to work for ending the violence and contributing to finding a political solution to the current crisis. They also asked that the letter not be distributed.

We received on 8 September a document in which the five detainees declared their acceptance of the procedure we proposed to them, which was represented in the full release of three officials and transferring Messrs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj to another residence.

In that very document, those concerned agreed to work for finding a solution within the practical conditions they accepted. This document will be distributed to you.

Therefore I did, on this basis, on 13 September, make the arrangements agreed. Since that date, representatives of the state held three contacts with Madani and Belhadj—on 15 and 29 September, and on 23 October. During the 15 September meeting, the two men were informed that they were granted a 15-day deadline to hold contacts and define their stances. Following the 29 September meeting, during which Abassi Madani and Belhadj admitted that they were enjoying the freedom of receiving their visitors and holding contacts with no obstacles, started insinuating that their situation did not allow them to contribute to finding a solution. They also started demanding their total freedom.

They were given a further deadline and they were informed that their seven colleagues who had been released had to hold the contacts they considered necessary. As everyone may notice, the dissolved party officials who are enjoying freedom, either those in Algeria or those abroad, have increased their one-upmanship and have escalated the tone of their demands.

Everybody saw in the field the blind terrorist onslaught against innocent citizens and national property, and also against our foreign guests. In this context, representatives of the state held the latest meeting on 23 October with Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, and asked them to work toward ending the violence and to make their contribution to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis, as they pledged in writing.

In this stage of the contacts, those concerned expressed very clearly their stance, which we are eager to present to you in all honesty.

Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj asked that they be able to enjoy unconditionally their full freedom and for the full release of all the elements of the dissolved party. They considered that they must, after this full release, hold a meeting with all the elements of their tendency, who are inside or outside the country, including the terrorist elements. They said that only then they would present their stance for solving the crisis.

When Abassi Madani was asked to make a statement on putting an end to violence, he replied without hesitation that he refused to make such a statement, which he considered useless and liable to complicate the situation. Abbasi and Belhadj frankly announced that they refused to take any initiative to stop the violence and settle the crisis as long as they remained at their present place of residence. They recalled that they will, after regaining their freedom, try to restore civil peace and settle the crisis. When they were reminded of the commitments which they had undertaken prior to changing their residence, they answered that the measures which had been taken against them did not make it possible for them to make a positive move. They renewed the demand for their complete release and the rest of their other conditions.

Thus, the head of state continued, you notice gentlemen, that the two persons concerned reneged on their undertakings, on the basis of which we had taken measures on 13 September, and this actually reveals once again the real intentions of the persons concerned. Indeed more than this, we have documents which establish categorically the real intentions of the leaders and officials of the dissolved party. The matter concerns two letters written by Ali Belhadj from his present place of residence.

In the letter addressed to the terrorist Gousmi dated 17 September and found on the aforementioned body, Mr. Belhadj demanded that he be freed so that he could rejoin the terrorists. He advised them to continue to pressure the state through terrorist acts. Mr. Belhadj proposed that he was prepared to issue a fatwa justifying the terrorists' crimes. He advised them to pretend to be unwilling to support blindly the attitudes of the dissolved party if these did not agree with the demands of the terrorist groups. In conclusion, he advised them to demand the release of all of the officials of the dissolved party and to declare that violence will not cease except through meeting all of their demands.

In the second letter that Belhadj sent on 2 October to the terrorists, he gave them a lesson he described as Jihad. At the same time, he demanded that they intensify their terrorist actions, political statements, and religious sermons. In this long letter that called for terrorism, despite the fact that the victims who were assassinated were Algerian Muslim compatriots, Belhadj rejects any idea which calls for discussion or dialogue prior to meeting their demands in full.

Copies of these two letters will be distributed among you, and the public will also be informed of them.

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I have told you now of all of the facts related to the national dialogue to which I invited you as a result of a serious and deep conviction that this dialogue is the best way to solve the crisis politically. No party can claim that he is not concerned with this crisis or remain silent.

This deep faith in the national dialogue remains my personal conviction and my conviction as head of state and minister of national defense. The whole process of this dialogue and of all the initiatives accompanying it took place in all transparency, and the public was informed of all minor and major points concerning either the discussions with parties or the contacts with the leaders of the dissolved party, in spite of some people's allegations that there were secret or hidden deals.

Gentlemen, representatives of the parties: Despite all of my efforts in the direction of our political parties, points of view and positions are unfortunately still far apart between these parties and between the parties and the state. You now know the real stance of the dissolved party. In the face of this situation, everyone should assume his responsibilities and try to anticipate the likely outcome of such a situation; this is a duty for all of us. For my part, I have decided to go to the Algerian people and talk to them about this new situation on the occasion of the glorious 1 November Revolution.

The national dialogue is an option aimed at rescuing the country, and I am fully convinced of the viability of this option. The framework of this dialogue and its principles are defined and its targets are known; the realities of our country are known to all of us. I hope we can repair these painful realities with wisdom and farsightedness so that we are able—and this is our duty—to distance ourselves from shortsighted calculations, work together to achieve harmony between various sections of our society, restore hope to our people, and enable them to impose their will in full sovereignty.

Gentlemen, this is what I wanted to tell you through this review. If you have no remarks that you think are necessary to be made now, I adjourn this meeting. Brothers, you now have all of the information, and the public will also be informed. Every party should define its stance. I reiterate that my call for dialogue was and is still is genuine and based only on the national interests. After defining your stances in the light of these developments, you will always find me eager and dependent on working toward the national consensus to which our people looking forward. I thank you. The meeting is adjourned, and peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Spokesman Comments on Meeting, Statement

LD2910215094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Head of State Liamine Zeroual this morning received at the presidency represetatives of six political party—Ennahda, HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], Party for Algerian Renewal [PRA], Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], and the Front for Socialist Forces [FFS]. The National Liberation Front [FLN] and Ettahidi did not attend the meeting. At this meeting, the head of state briefed the representatives of the six parties on the progress of the national dialogue since it was resumed on 21 August.

Official Presidency Spokesman Mihoub Mihoubi held a news conference this afternoon in which he dwelled on this meeting. He also read out excerpts from two messages which Ali Belhadj [FIS leader under house arrest] addressed to the terrorists. Here is the recording:

[Begin Mihoubi recording] Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to brief you on the outcome of the meeting which took place this morning between his excellency the head of state and the parties which had been invited to take part at this meeting.

Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, today met the representatives of the political parties invited to the national dialogue in order to brief them on the progress of the dialogue since it was resumed on 21 September [as heard].

The following parties have taken part in the dialogue: The Rally for Culture and Democracy, the Party for Algerian Renewal, the Front for Socialist Forces, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, Ennahda Movement, and the Hamas Movement. Ettahadi Movement reaffirmed its boycott of the current dialogue. The FLN party declined the invitation under the pretext that consultations did not precede such a meeting.

At the meeting, the head of state made a statement, the text of which will be given to the press. This statement contains, first, the observations concluded from the four multilateral meetings which took place between 21 August and 20 September 1994. These observations are represented in the will of some parties to confine the framework of dialogue solely to the Constitution, and in their request for the necessity to take new measures to appease the situation, despite the fact that the state adopted many of these measures unilaterally. These observations also included an insistence by some parties with regard to the necessity for all parties invited to the dialogue to participate and with the participation of the dissolved party. The head of state also reviewed the results of the bilateral meetings held with the parties absent in the multilateral meetings.

The upshot of all this is that these parties made their participation in the dialogue subject to predetermined conditions, while they declared that they were not prepared to join the multilateral dialogue. On the other hand, these parties made some reservations or objections to the framework and the bases set out for the dialogue. Moreover, the head of state presented the results of the three contacts which took place on 15, 19 September, and 23 October between representatives of the state and

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officials of the dissolved party, who committed themselves in writing to the effect that they would work towarding halting the violence and to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

These contacts, especially the third meeting, revealed that two gentlemen, Abbasi and Belhadj, who did not abandon their commitments, said that they considered the measures that had been taken in their favor were not enough. They demanded that they should be freed unconditionally. They also demanded the complete release of all elements of the dissolved party in order to hold a meeting to include all the cadres of this current, including the terrorists. They stressed that only then would the dissolved party announce its stance toward solving the crisis. In addition, and when Belhadj and Madani were asked to make a statement with regard to ending the violence, Mr. Abbassi replied without hesitation that he refused to make such a statement, which he considered useless and liable to complicate the situation.

The real intentions of those concerned become clearer with the two letters issued by Ali Belhadj from his current residence. These two letters, which were delivered to the political parties and whose content will be disclosed to the press later, prove the maneuvering method adopted by the leaders of the dissolved party, who continue to encourage terrorism and extremism.

At the end of his report, the head of state recalled that his invitation to dialogue emanated from his sincere conviction that dialogue is the best means for solving a crisis with a political nature, and nobody can consider himself to be not concerned with it or even just keep quiet about it. He added that the process of this dialogue took place in full openness, and that despite all the efforts made, or which he made personally, the stances were still, regrettably, distant between the various parties themselves and between the parties and the state, and in addition there is the stance of the dissolved party.

The head of state added that everybody must shoulder his responsibilities, and that as far as he is concerned, he will address the Algerian people with a speech to the nation, on the occasion of commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the start of the glorious revolution.

The head of state reiterated his faith in the dialogue, whose framework and constant principles were defined, and which has a known aim, in addition to the fact that the realities of our country are very well known. The head of state expressed the hope that everyone will assess these realities with wisdom and far- sightedness, with the aim of avoiding shortsighted calculations and preconceived ideas, and in order that everyone endeavors to achieve national consensus, strengthen hope, and enable the nation to embody its sovereign will. The head of state asked the party representatives to let him know if they had any observations to make before adjourning the session. When no party asked to speak, the head of state closed the session by saying that public opinion would be informed of all the facts which were reviewed, and that when the parties were ready to define their stances, they would find in the head of state the necessary will and preparedness to endeavor for the establishment of national consensus, to which the Algerian people aspires.

This is the end of the statement, and as I promised I will read some excerpts of the documents which I referred to in this report. These documents have been distributed to all the political parties participating in the dialogue.

At their meeting with the head of state today, the political parties were handed copies of the documents which were published by the leaders and officials of the disbanded party [FIS] on 8 September 1994. The documents were the basis for the measures which were taken by the state on 13 September 1994.

Those documents state the following: As our serious proposal has been rejected, we have no other choice but to accept either house arrest for the five of us, or house arrest for two of us, and the release of the other three. We have found ourselves forced to accept the second option in order to fulfil our undersigned commitment in our first message on 6 September 1994, on condition that the brothers who are to be released will be allowed to carry out their activities in total freedom.

At the same meeting with the head of state, the parties received copies of the message which was sent by Ali Belhadj on 17 September 1994, only four days after his transfer from Blida prison, to terrorist Cherif Gousmi, alias Abu Abdallah [Former leader of the Islamic Armed Group killed last month]. The message was found by the security forces on the body of Gousmi. The message said the following, in particular.

To my Mujahid brother Abdallah. You should be aware, O my Godly brother and the rest of the brothers, that my heart is full of sorrow that I am not with you as a Mujahid and as a guide. This is my first contact with you from the prison of house arrest. There are a number of points which I beg you to pay attention to and study before making your decision.

No doubt, it is one of the beliefs of the virtuous forefathers that togetherness is blessing and dissension is suffering. Therefore, I advise you to be faithful to God and to adhere to the Shari'a in all matters big and small, to work toward rallying the ranks concerning details even within the same organization so as not to provide a cause for sedition for those who disbelieve.

When I left prison I was always citing examples that dispute within the greater circle, the circle of Islam, is acceptable in the generalities but not in the details.

I know there is a dispute, however, and that notwithstanding, I would say: the dispute should not be resolved in favor of the enemies of Islam. I advise you, especially at this juncture, to keep all your behavior meticulously disciplined, be it at the level of jihad operations or at the level of the statements emanating from you. God bless you.

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As to the excesses about which the struggle has been complaining they have managed to pay back twofold. We said: Let us suppose that there were excesses, they should not cancel out the principles for which they engaged in jihad.

My brother mujahid commander and the rest of the brothers, I give advice to my sinful soul and to you as follows—afterward, the matter will rest with you because the people of Mecca are the best ones who know their own people.

First, how nice if one could reach an agreement with the Islamic Salvation Army and the rest of the brothers at least under general common denominators in order to confront the unbelieving enemy while other matters are left until the war came to an end, as the men of knowledge have recommended.

Second, the message which you ought to champion is the letter dated 6 September 1994 because it is the real way out that bestows honor to Muslims in general and to the mujahidin in particular.

Thanks be God, you have been the cause in freeing the three brothers and in our placing under house arrest. We asked for total freedom with the intention of joining you forthwith without even first paying a visit to the relatives and the family.

Third, I beg you to demand the release of our brother prisoners in your next statement, and in particular the mujahidin leaders, the political leaders and those who were elected, and to allow our brothers abroad to contact us. There should be a contact between the mujahidin from the jihad movement or the Salvation Army. Pressures must be brought to be from outside by you through operations and statements and by us, who are under house arrest, and through other politicians, through information and guidance.

Fourth, my esteemed brother leader: If you have any problems, which have been bothering you, or any other Sharia issues which you want to know the rule of God and His prophet and scholars on them, send them to us in total secrecy and be vigilant. And I am fully ready to sacrifice the short hours of my sleep to make sure to send you the political information and Sharia and other information.

Fifth, you must say in your next statement that you have been told by the Chiekhs [FIS leaders] that you must not follow their advice blindly and that you will only follow their advice if it is in accordance with Sharia, there is an unanimity about it from the political and the armed wings of the FIS leadership inside the country and outside it and will accomplish a true religious aim. The Cheikhs are only part of the leadership and not the whole leadership.

This was the text of the statement.

During today's meeting, the political parties also received the text of the second letter sent by Ali Belhadj to the terrorists on 2 October. This document of over 30 pages contained a number of recommendations made to the terrorist groups and a lecture by Belhadj on terrorism, which he describes as jihad. [end recording]

Zeroual Announces Presidential Elections

LD3110231694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1905 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Address by President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful and most compassionate. Oh citizens, Algeria is this evening marking the anniversary of the outbreak of the glorious 1 November 1954, which represents an important phase in our inveterate history. It was the right of the Algerian people on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of this heroic event to add their intercessions on behalf of the souls of those heroes and to hope for ceremonies that distinguish the greatness of this anniversary. [passage omitted]

As for the ceremonies that we wanted to share with one another, it is our duty to abandon them under these difficult conditions under which our people are living. These conditions have been created by the attempts to shed doubt on the heritage of our faithful martyrs and to infringe on their pure memory. These conditions have also been created by the attempts to destroy all the efforts exerted by all those who work with all sincerity and conviction for the building of an independent Algeria. These difficult conditions are of interest to every Algerian and call on him to halt.

For all these reasons, and instead of holding ceremonies and festivities, I invite you this evening to think deeply about our current situation.

Such deep thinking is, in fact, a true emotional sympathy with our faithful martyrs who were brave enough to realize the difficult situation in which Algeria was living throughout the colonial period. They also had the courage to confront and change the situation.

I would personally like to share with you my thoughts and reflections on our condition, because I will announce a decision I made that you will be the first to hear. [passage omitted]

At the same time, the glorious November revolution—which fought the occupation and lack of freedom—has also determined the means by which the Algerian people want to protect their freedom in an independent, democratic, and republican state and within the framework of respecting our national ideals. It is a state in which social justice reigns. [passage omitted]

Of course, no human work is perfect. Nonetheless, no political speech should ignore the achievements and the

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gains of independent Algeria, which have been realized within the framework of the choices of the November revolution.

Deviation did not, in fact, appear until personal interest and tribal calculations began to take over our system. Such interests and calculations have deepened the gap between the state's policies and the aspirations of our people. Hence, the state machine was breached and weakened by nepotism and tribalism that have caused many social ills.

Also, the squandering of financial resources has weakened our country's potential, given rise to the citizens' legitimate grievances, and finished off the dreams and prospects of the Algerian youth.

The Algerian people, however, expressed their rejection of such policies during the events of October 1988. Instead of learning from such events, however, and trying to make the anticipated correction of the situation, they were used as means for an egoist and suicidal crazy leap forward.

Intensive indebtedness has been chosen as a temporary solution to deal with the effects of the waste, in as much as true democracy—which guaranteed the establishment of people's control and the opening of the field for the peaceful expression of our people's aspirations—has been distorted. Thus, national unity was exposed to danger due to violating the Constitution. This violation led to the politicization of our identity and national values, including our true Islamic religion. Thus, the road became open before chaos, and the nation was pushed into the whirlpool of this chaos.

The Algerian people, which have withdrawn their confidence from their leaders, was subjected to manipulation aimed at exploiting their despair and complaints. The Algerian people, who adopted Islam with conviction 14 centuries ago and who contributed toward its boom throughout the different continents, the Algerian people who made of their true Islamic religion an impregnable armor against all forms of hegemony, this united people has found itself threatened by division in the name of its belief.

The criminals, traitors, and mercenaries aimed at hitting at their people and their property using Islam—the religion of mercy, unity, and progress—as an expedient. This tragic adventure, which caused thousands of victims and billions in losses and destruction, has been revealed.

Those who opened the way before this adventure by violating the Constitution—the Constitution that they put forward themselves and that had been approved by the nation—those who tampered with democracy and who broke the law are also guilty. They are also responsible for the victims and the losses that are being paid for by our homeland. Yes, they also share responsibility for the victims and the losses.

Citizens, this is the situation that must be corrected. We have resolved to rectify it together, with the help of God, and by a return to the great and true November values.

I announced this commitment about a year ago in my capacity as a minister of national defense, speaking on behalf of the people's National Army. I reaffirmed this commitment in my address to the nation on 7 February and promised to embody it by implementing the platform prepared by the national reconciliation concord last January. This endeavor will triumph over any delays or any maneuvering. This endeavor will triumph because it is not the choice of a regime or a group. This endeavor is a people's demand that calls for the consecration of justice, requests the preservation of dignity, the safeguarding of freedom, and a guarantee for the future. [passage omitted]

I reaffirm and I repeat that the matter concerns a break with factional interests, a break with shirking responsibility and failing to account for it, a break with ignoring the will and aspirations of the people. This break is our option because through it, and only through it, can the Algerian people renew their confidence in their state.

Citizens, our country throughout the transitional period is engaged in solving three major problems: namely, restoring security, reviving economic and social development, and returning to the elections.

Concerning restoring security, I previously said on several occasions that putting an end to terrorism and violence represented an objective that we are endeavoring to realize with all resolution and determination.

Our security forces, headed by the National People's Army, are working selflessly toward achieving this goal. Combating terrorism is aimed at protecting the whole of the Algerian people from crime and sabotage. Combating terrorism requires exerting effort, mobilizing everyone, and perseverance, because the attempt to strike at the stability of Algeria is a project that has been under way for many years.

Yes, combating terrorism is aimed at protecting the whole of the Algerian people from crime and sabotage. Combating terrorism requires exerting effort, mobilizing everyone, and perseverance, because the attempt to strike at the stability of Algeria is a project that has been under way for many years.

The blood of Algerians, all Algerians, could be spared if everyone was reasonable and understood that harming the honor, life, and wealth of our Muslim people does not serve the interests of Algeria or the interests of Islam at all.

Our sons—whom the bloody criminals who are thirsty for power dragged into committing sins—must realize their place is in building their homeland and not in destroying it. Their place is available in Algeria, which is being built due to the efforts of all its sons and for their

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benefit. The Algeria from which they have been excluded by a rotten regime. [passage omitted]

The government's reform program aims at the establishment of a strong state which serves the Algerian people only. A state that regains its true position in international organizations. [passage omitted]

Citizens, the sole ambition of the present transitional stage is to set the course for national rectification on sound and firm bases and to pave the way for the electorate to continue this course. For this reason we consider national dialogue to be a better way and we appeal for the participation of all, because no one whatsoever in Algeria considers himself not to be involved in the present problems of our country.

This message has been grasped by men and women of good will. They participated in the national concord conference. They prevented our country from entering the institutional dilemma. They also approved a platform that truly reflects the bases of national concord.

Restoring civil peace, arriving at the point of organizing elections within a democratic framework, reviving the national economy, improving the living conditions of the citizens, and safeguarding the security of individuals and property, these are all objectives of the national concord. They are in actual fact the constituents of the national concord in the estimation of those who want to realize the aspirations of the people and who consider a solution to the current crisis a top priority.

Ever since I assumed the position of head of state, I have not ceased to work for broadening this national accord, so it embraces the whole political strata. It is because Algeria today needs all its sons to consolidate its unity and restore accord and concord to its ranks. This is the full meaning of the national dialogue; this is its real objective. It is a dialogue through which there must be no divisions, as some people have been trying to give the impression, because the Algerian people are the only ones who have the right to delegate power and legitimacy.

I have encouraged dialogue even among the political parties themselves. Yes, citizens, this is the full meaning of the national dialogue and this is its real aim. It is a dialogue through which there is no scope for dividing anything, some people would like to insinuate. This is because the Algerian people is the only one one who has the right to delegate authority and legitimacy.

I have encouraged dialogue even among the political parties themselves.

This dialogue did not impose any preconceptions whatsoever, but it imposed the condition of going beyond partisan stances. The dialogue which I called was a mobilizing dialogue to serve true democracy according to which no one, except the people alone, would have the right to choose. There was only one proviso for the dialogue. It was proposed to the parties to declare their stances freely. This proviso was the framework and constants which were drawn up for the national dialogue. The framework and constants were drawn up because we considered it our duty, as the servants of a nation rich with national values, to confront any imported extremism whatever its origin might be.

This dialogue took place with conviction and patience and with complete openess. This allowed the Algerian people to see how the events developed and to judge them. Actually, you have seen how the events developed and have judged them.

The majority of our political parties that remained at the sidelines of the management of the transitional period were not able to go beyond their narrow calculations, in spite of all the efforts to make them do so. These political parties, which justified their stances by the divisions in the political class itself, exploited the blind violence from which the Algerian people suffered and hid themselves behind the issue of legitimacy. They did not understand the meaning of the hand that was extended to them for the sake of the interests of Algeria and Algeria alone.

Moreover, what is more serious is that the silence of some was coupled with the extremism of some, while others suggested foreign intervention.

All this was carried out by ignoring our people's will and aspirations. Furthermore, a major part of the proposed dialogue in the interest of the Algerian people took place outside our national borders. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the officials of the disbanded party [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS] have observed a long silence regarding all our initiatives, which we sincerely proposed for the sake of national interest at a time when innocent Algerians were the victims of terrorism and public property was being set on fire by criminals.

Thus, instead of working for an end to the violence as they promised in writing, they are trying to bolster extremism and encourage crime. With such behavior, those people have shown they have a dictatorial view of democracy. At the same time, they are trying to portray themselves as the victim. Also, their silence has shown that the Algerian people, of whom they claim to be an integral part, was of no concern to them. Their only aim is power for the sake of power.

Those persons will be shouldering heavy responsibilities before the nation and Almighty God, whose sacred message they have been manipulating.

History will actually record that the officials of the dissolved party remained silent for a long time, when innocent Algerians were victims of terrorism, and public properties were set on fire by criminals. Instead of working towards stopping violence, as they vouched in writing, they worked towards supporting extremism and encouraging crime. With such behavior, those concerned demonstrated they only have a dictatorial view of democracy, while they attempt to appear to be the

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victim. At the same time, their silence reveal that the Algerian people, to which they claim to belong, is not among their concerns. Their main purpose is to reach power for the sake of it. Those persons shoulder heavy responsibilities before the nation and before God Almighty, because they manipulate his holy message.

This is the truth to which you have been direct witnesses, and no statement or any reason can hide this. It is also impossible for any campaign or manipulations to conceal the secret maneuvers contrived by those who, whenever efforts are consolidated for finding suitable solutions, move to obstruct them. They are trying to preserve their interest, because any solution to the national crisis disturbs their interests. [passage omitted]

Facing such a situation, I address myself to you, Algerian men and women, directly. I put some questions before you:

Is it possible to claim to belong to the people while assassinating those people or while standing with disinterest before the assassination of innocent victims, and of the best people even our foreign guests?

Is it admissible to use any excuse whatsoever for violating the tombs of the faithful martyrs and for assassinating the brave veterans who survived after completing the duty of national liberation?

This is only admissible if the aim is to strike at the Algerian revolution and all that it symbolizes of sacrifices, principles, and gains.

Does the belonging to democracy go together with standing negatively when democracy was subjected to danger through the exposition of Algeria itself to this danger? Is it possible to announce a desire to take Algeria to a better future and remain silent before the pains and tragedies of this country? Is it possible to continue serving factional interests under the cover of the slogan of "serving the interests of the people" when this people remains steadfast so that Algeria lives? Can we stand with disinterest before what is clearly taking place as being a genuine conspiracy against Algeria itself? The answer is "no." [passage omitted]

No, we cannot adopt a disinterested stance, and we will confront this conspiracy as one man.

However, the behavior of a number of political parties reminds us of the behavior the Algerian people noticed just before the outbreak of the glorious November Revolution. The behavior of those who have chosen to assassinate their brothers and create havoc in their country, which is still being developed, reminds us of the choice made by traitors during the war of liberation.

Algeria deserves something better than civil war, toward which some people are hoping to push it. Algeria deserves something better than political paralysis, toward which some people have been trying push it.

The Algerian people are waiting for those people—these people who have been claiming, thanks to democracy, that they were talking in its name and in the name of democracy—to do a much better job than they have been doing so far. This situation must end. [passage omitted]

I repeat, the Algerian people are anticipating from those, who thanks to democracy claimed to be speaking in the name of the people and in the name of democracy, better work than they were carrying out. This situation cannot last. Despite the treason of those who rushed madly upon Algeria, and despite all the regrettable political reverberations, Algeria is still standing with pride and dignity. [passage omitted]

On the occasion of 40th anniversary of this blessed historic popular revolution, I announce that the time is ripe to remove any barrier between the Algerian people and its national destiny, and the time has come to enable Algeria to express its will by itself directly and freely.

Therefore, I am announcing to the Algerian people my decision to organize presidential elections before the end of 1995. I want to repeat what I just said: Today I announce to the Algerian people my decision to organize presidential elections before the end of 1995. Through these elections, which will be carried out in clarity, the Algerian people will express their free, democratic, and sovereign choice.

Hence, it is up the political class, which has not taken advantage of the opportunity of the dialogue for national consensus, to get ready for a direct dialogue with the people.

At the same time, I want to tell those who choose violence as a means for realizing their aims, I want to tell them here it is not possible and it will not be possible for any force whatsoever to dictate its will on the Algerian people through pressure and terrorism. I want to stress once more it is not possible and it will not be possible for any force whatsoever to dictate its will upon the Algerian people through pressure and terrorism.

Everyone should know there is no time left for making obstacles and accuses. Algeria is still on its feet thanks to its heroic people. It is only right for people to decide directly their own destiny.

Algeria is an independent and sovereign country; it is the property of the free Algerian people alone. The people can never accept a choice imposed by violence nor can this country ever be a sphere for foreign interference. Algeria, which is still standing on its feet, is a free, independent, and sovereign country and will only go forward with conviction in its future.

Yes, Algeria is still on its feet thanks to its heroic people. It is therefore up to the people to decide their own destiny. [passage omitted]

Algerian men and women, you are invited again to create your national destiny. You have the stage. Raise your voices as you did when you triggered the immortal November revolution.

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Glory and immortality be for our faithful martyrs. Long live Algeria. Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings.

FIS Assails Speech, Declares 'State of War'

LD3110234094 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2300 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A presidential election will be held in Algeria before the end of 1995, President Zeroual announced this evening in a speech broadcast on television and radio. [passage omitted]

In his speech President Zeroual reiterated his determination to continue the fight against violence and terrorism. He even used the expression "eradication", hence the very violent reaction from the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], which declared open war on the Algerian government this evening. Listen to Anouar Haddam—he presents himself as being the chairman of the FIS parliamentary delegation abroad. Isabelle Dor has just contacted him by phone:

[Begin recording] [Haddam] Unfortunately, we interpret Mr. Zeroual's speech as being admission of his failure—the fact that he has ruled out the continuation of all negotiations with the FIS—and this announcement of presidential elections at the end of 1995 is in fact just an attempt to hide his failure. He knows well that there cannot be such elections without there being a genuine multiparty system, and there can be no multiparty system in Algeria without the FIS.

If we, as the parliamentary delegation [pauses], if they refuse to meet our leaders, how do you expect us to go into such elections?

[Dor] The FIS is officially banned, so it cannot officially take part in elections.

[Haddam] There cannot be and there will not be any elections. That is a promise. There will quite simply not be any elections under such circumstances. The armed struggle will certainly be stepped up. Algeria is in a state of war. [end recording]

FIS Challenges Zeroual To Debate on Talks' Failure

LD3110141794 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 31, IRNA—The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) Sunday [30 October] challenged the head of Algeria's military-backed regime Liamine Zeroual to a direct television debate with its leaders to inform the people about the facts over the failure of talks to end the crisis.

"We throw a challenge at the face of President Zeroual to organize a television meeting to be aired directly between him and the two sheikhs...so that the public opinion may learn the truth from the sources and not from the statements of the regime," said a statement issued by FIS' executive committee in exile.

FIS charged the regime of carrying out a "political theft against the two imprisoned sheikhs, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj" by attempting to portray to the people that they have broken their promise.

The regime Saturday blamed FIS leaders for the failure of talks after two months contacts between the Islamists and the regime. Madani and Belhadj were released from prison two months ago and held under house arrest.

FIS said the number of dead and the extent of human rights violations under the era of Zeroual, especially during the last two months, have reached to an "unprecedented level."

The Front said it had agreed to hold talks with the regime in the interest of the Muslim people of Algeria to achieve a just solution, but the regime continues its terror policies against the people.

The statement also condemned the normalisation of sports relations between the Zionist regime and the regime in Algeria.

"We remain with the Algerian people in one trench in their defence, working with them for the sake of Islam and Algeria till Allah grants us victory," concluded the Arabic statement faxed to IRNA from Germany.

FIS was poised to win general elections two years ago but the western-backed regime cancelled the second round of polls, declared the front illegal and jailed thousands of its leaders and supporters.

Urges Zeroual To Resign

LD3110165394 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the positions of the two sides have become even more radical over the weekend. President Liamine Zeroual did not mince his words about the two FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. As for the FIS executive body abroad, it has advised the Algerian head of state to resign should he not manage to find a solution to the crisis. Abou Oussama is a member of the FIS Madjlis Echoura [consultative council] and the representative of the FIS in Belgium. He spoke to Tahar Mejdoub:

[Begin recording] [Oussama] We believe that Mr. Zeroual and the men who support him are in a stalemate. They have failed in their mission so we advise them to resign in order to expose the military junta which is hiding behind them, if I may put it this way.

[Mejdoub] The authorities have accused the FIS of not playing the game. They claim they took a step forward when they released the FIS leaders from prison. They were expecting a gesture on your part to end violence.

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[Oussama] Listen, the FIS leaders were clear in their letter and [words indistinct] were still in prison...[pauses] under house arrest, they were still in prison. The leaders were clear. They made a serious, committing pledge that they would solve the crisis if they were allowed to get in touch with the other leaders. It is impossible for the [word indistinct] to make a statement until they consult the imprisoned leaders, those leaders who have taken to the maquis and those leaders abroad. This is a matter of principle. We shall never be able to make any step forward as long as we have not met, as long as we have not consulted each other. [end recording]

Views Failure of Dialogue

NC3110195294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In London, Cheikh Abdelbaki Sahraoui, deputy leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has blamed the Algerian regime for the failure of a dialogue between the government and the FIS. He said that President Liamine Zeroual is not the decisionmaker in the Algerian authority. This came in an exclusive interview with MBC correspondent Hasan Zaytun:

[Begin recording] [Sahraoui] The government did not enter the dialogue with sincere intentions. All it wanted was to stall and mark time. Liamine Zeroual was brought to power only to freeze the dialogue, because he is powerless. Power, implementing decisions, and decisonmaking are in the hands of generals and the military junta ruling Algeria since the beginning of 1962. Algeria has been suffering the ordeal of despotic and one-party rule ever since.

[Zaytun] What is the FIS view of President Zeroual's changes in the Algerian Army?

[Sahraoui] Those who control the Algerian people and make decisions are the generals, who are well known, including Zeroual. They brought in Zeroual, who is powerless and who is not the decisionmaker. They decided not to hold a real dialogue but used it as a pretext to say that the FIS rejected the dialogue, although it rejected nothing.

[Zaytun] Algeria today celebrates the 1 November anniversary in a climate fraught with danger and apprehension. Given the current violence the loser will eventually be Algeria. How long will his continue?

[Sahraoui] Algeria is living in an atmosphere of violence. I will not say this is a day of joy; Algeria will mark mourning for its sons and youths who are still in jails, although they did nothing against the law. The authorities themselves trampled the law they claim to defend. If the Algerian people were conscious and free for a time and had morale and culture, they would not take to the street tomorrow to celebrate, because this is a day of mourning and sorrow throughout Algeria. [end recording]

Egypt

Al-Alfi Discusses Security, Ongoing Investigations

NC3110160594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—[passage omitted] In press statements today, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said that security in Upper Egypt is stable and that anyone who tries to violate the law in the name of an extremist group will be tracked down.

He said Egypt will sign a security agreement with Italy next month and that during his recent visit to Italy he discussed security cooperation with the Italian deputy prime minister and interior minister.

Asked why the prosecution has indicted only 13 of the 40 suspects in the attack on writer Najib Mahfuz, he said that while all the suspects played a role in the attack, some played an active role and others a passive one.

He noted that the investigations will reveal the roles of the suspects and that information indicates that they all had links with this group [group not further specified].

He was asked about the Interior Ministry's announcement at the Cabinet's recent meeting that the security agencies have curbed the activities of the outlawed groups and whether this meant that members of these groups were arrested in the past few days. He said that they were dealt with in connection with some cases that are still under investigation and that it is in the public's interest not to disclose anything now. He noted that the findings will be announced soon.

Commenting on the Interior Ministry's measures to help citizens register on the electoral lists, the interior minister said there are strict instructions to all police stations in the Republic to open the registration lists to the public and to help anyone wanting to register. [passage omitted]

Paper Claims NATO To Strike at Islamic Groups

NC3110165394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Text] During their latest meeting in Spain, NATO defense ministers agreed on a plan to destroy the Islamic movements in the Middle East. AL-SHA'B has learned that the plan includes the following basic clauses:

1. The threat of the Islamic movements affects the security of NATO countries and so the alliance must coordinate with the "moderate" governments to confront this phenomenon.

2. It is important for NATO member states to hold urgent military consultations among themselves should any of the countries in the region be exposed to this danger.

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3. NATO countries must have the right to launch direct military intervention and to cooperate with the moderate governments in the region should they feel that the Islamic elements may take power in these countries.

4. There is a need to draw up an urgent plan for security cooperation and an exchange of information on the Islamic movements and members with the moderate governments mentioned in the plan.

5. There is a need to take preventive military measures against the countries that sponsor the Islamic movements and to interfere directly against them if they try to harm NATO's strategic interests in the Middle East.

6. There is a need to enhance the effectiveness and activities of NATO countries' intelligence services in cooperation with the moderate governments to confront the danger of the Islamic movements.

Party Official Accused of Carrying Islamic Pamphlets

NC0111120594 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Kamal 'Imran]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cairo airport authorities have accused 'Adil Husayn, Labor Party secretary general, of bringing in pamphlets from abroad. The airport authorities asked the state's security prosecution to interrogate Husayn regarding pamphlets that were discovered above his seat aboard an Airbus flight from Paris.

After the passengers had disembarked, a cleaner found a big envelope containing pamphlets in Arabic and English that belong to the Islamic Group. Of these, seven pamphlets list terrorist activities carried out by the group in retaliation for the killing of one of its leaders. Security forces found the envelope on top of 'Adil Husayn's seat, which was number 15. The security forces also found a message addressed to Husayn from the Islamic Group. The state prosecution has been informed of the case.

Policeman Gunned Down by Unidentified Assailants

NC3110221094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Police Warrant Officer Fawzi Ibrahim was killed when unknown gunmen fired at him this evening while on his way to his place of work at Farshut Police Station in Qina, Upper Egypt.

An official security source at the Interior Ministry said leaders of Qina Security Directorate and investigation and criminal laboratory officials have moved to the scene of the crime.

Libya

Committee Secretariat Denounces Casablanca Summit

LD3010162894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Oct 94

["Text" of statement issued by the secretariat of the General People's Committee on Unity on the convening of the economic conference in Morocco; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The secretariat of the General People's Committee on Unity, while it follows this dangerous conference, would like to put before the Arab masses important facts pertaining to the plot which has already begun to destroy Arab capabilities and loot Arab resources and perpetuate Israeli-crusader control of the area. Some defeated Arab regimes are energetically violating the joint Arab action agreements and indeed now are trying to destroy the pan-Arab entity and the foundations of the Arab system. [passage omitted]

The way invitations to the conference were influenced by the United States and the pressures the United States applied so the Great Jamahiriyah—the largest state that has a Mediterranean coastline well over 2,000 km—would not be invited to the conference. The Great Jamahiriyah, in any case, would not approve of the projects and aims of this summit. It affirms that the principled and firm stand of the Arab masses stems from refusing to obey the will of the major powers to include the Israelis in the Arab body and the preference for Israel instead of some Arabs, especially the revolutionaries, the unionists, and the fighters for the upsurge of the Arab nation and its unity and who stand to defend its rights and sovereignty—a stand and a pan-Arab role that reflects the interests and the will of the Arab nation which rejects imposition of the spirit of defeat on it. [passage omitted]

The call to set up a Middle East market contradicts the aims of the Arab League charter and the Arab economic unity agreement and the agreements on setting up the Arab common market. It also contradicts the commitment of the Arab League states regarding the provisions of the Arab boycott of Israel; it threatens the potentials of the Arab economy. It deepens its dependence on Western monopolies. It facilitates the continuing plundering of Arab resources, which leaves the Arab citizen in the vicious circle of underdevelopment. The conference has this as an aim to perpetuate.

The conference makes Israel a support and controlling force and it contributes to making the Arab nation a loser in the balance of forces. It creates a new credit balance in favor of America, the West, and the Israelis. This will help them to tighten their domination of the area and subject Arab governments to more political intimidation and political and economic blackmail. [passage omitted]

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JANA Editor Condemns Israeli Participation

LD2910212594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Israelis have been able, through psychological warfare, to inflict political and military defeat on the regimes and institutions in place in the Arab world, there now comes another attempt to inflict economic defeat on the Arab world and economically invade it. This is exactly what has been made out from the aims of the Casablanca economic summit defined in its agenda. These aims can be summed up as an attempt to give legitimacy and the aspect of a state to the Israelis and consider them as an alternative for the pan-Arab, socialist, and Islamic tendencies in the Arab world and to consider the Israelis as the alternative for Lebanese, Syrian, Libyan, and Palestinian Arabs and all the revolutionaries.

The manner in which the Israeli enemy's participation in this conference is being presented and the endeavors by some parties to impose and establish the idea of the importance of the Israeli enemy in any economic agreement concerning the Arab world, all this reveals the dimensions of a plan aiming at integrating the Israelis into the Arab homeland. This analysis is supported by the fact that some Arab parties have gone to the extent of asking for the membership of the Arab League to be granted to the Israeli enemy.

Israeli and U.S. statements, which accompanied the preparations for this conference, have made it clear that the first and the last aim behind the Israeli enemy's participation in this conference is to enable the Israelis to totally dominate Arab economies and achieve the economic colonialization of the Arab world after suitable conditions and factors have been made possible by the latest conditions and steps of surrendering for establishing an Israeli-U.S. economic colonialization of the region.

JANA's economic editor ended by saying:

If this series of defeats and losses continues unstopped, the end will be very near and the whole of the Arab existence will be threatened when the Israeli-U.S. octopus controls the Arab body and its capabilities. This octopus will only continue to insult and degrade the dignity of the Arab nation.

The Arab nation is needed today to put an end to such a wave of exaggerated degradation—unfortunately involving some Arab governments—by giving up the policies of keeping silent and watching and taking the initiative and revolting against the crisis reality and announcing the historic confrontation in the face of the Arab nation's historic enemies.

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Kuwait

Military Exercises Conducted With U.S. Troops

LD3110212794 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwaiti troops and U.S. troops conducted the "Lightning" joint military exercise on the island of Bubyan this morning, in which al-Maghawir forces and U.S. troops took part together with a number of the Kuwaiti Air Force's Puma and Gazelle helicopters, F-18 aircraft, and a number of al-Maghawir's boats.

The exercises, which were attended by Staff Pilot Major General Fahd al-Ahmad al-Amir, deputy chief of the general staff of the Kuwaiti Army, and Major General Taylor, commander of the U.S. troops in the State of Kuwait, included air reconnaissance and landing operations, air support, tanks and firing exercises using live ammunition, and also building clearing operations.

Oman

Authorities Sentence 105 Islamists; Others Released

NC3110203594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Oct 94 p 7

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the campaign of arrests and raids that involved more than 500 persons from the Islamic trend in the Sultanate of Oman and that lasted from 29 May until September, the Omani authorities recently sentenced 105 of them and released the others after withdrawing their identity cards and passports, expelling them from their jobs, and stopping the wages of others.

Islamic Gulf sources have told AL-SHA'B that the sentences, which Sultan Qabus has not yet ratified, varied between 10 and 15 years and were passed by a governmental body and not an independent judicial one. A committee including the interior, information, agricultural, municipalities, and electricity ministers, in addition to Sultan Qabus' adviser for legal affairs, and the president of the criminal court was formed for that purpose. The sentences were passed without giving the defendants the opportunity to defend themselves due to the absence of lawyers or a real court.

The Gulf sources added that there are two trends inside the sultanate. The first, which mostly consists of the communists of the Dhofar Liberation Front who were reconciled with the government, backs and calls for implementing the sentences. The second trend demands the release of the detainees to calm the situation and not to heed the demand of the foreign security advisers who are calling for an escalation.

It is known that the arrests involved a number of important figures, including ambassadors, officers, under secretaries, merchants, students, and others.

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Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session, Assails 'Evil Forces'

JN3110193694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1904 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stated that our people faced the recent U.S. troop concentrations and threats and the media clamor and deception with calm, enhanced self-confidence, and with an optimistic approach to the future as compared to the panic and fright that prevailed over the other side.

This came in statements the president made while chairing the Council of Ministers' 24th session.

His excellency added that the recent gamble by the evil forces to influence Iraq's crossing to safe shores will inevitably fail and that the crossing will take place, God willing.

In its 24th session, the council discussed a report by a ministerial committee to update the provisions of several laws in line with the current economic state of affairs.

After discussing the committee's recommendations, the council adopted them and discussed other organizational issues listed on its agenda and took the appropriate decisions on them.

Saddam's Son Reportedly Lobbying Against 'Aziz

JN3110210594 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Oct 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that 'Aziz went to New York a few days ago while he was in a state of severe frustration. They said that he had a feeling that it could be his last trip while in his present position, especially since the failure of his mission was certain in light of the recent Iraqi adventure at the Kuwait borders.

These sources added that 'Aziz has for months been subjected to a criticism campaign led by Saddam Husayn's eldest son 'Udayy in his own media and his private meetings. 'Udayy has been condemning Tariq 'Aziz' failure to persuade the world to lifting the sanctions or to violate them.

'Udayy has more than once asked his father to stop 'Aziz and adopt a different policy. Recently, 'Udayy's brother, Qusayy, who is responsible for presidential security, has joined 'Udayy's trend.

Saddam Orders New Purchase Prices for Rice

JN3110181494 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Oct 94 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered an amendment of the purchase prices of rice for the current 1994-1995 agricultural season as follows:

Type	Price Per One Tonne
'Anbar & Nakazah	75,000 dinars
Mishkhab	65,000 dinars
Other types	60,000 dinars

This generous gesture by leader President Saddam Husayn comes as a support and an encouragement for peasants and farmers to expand on the cultivation of this vital crop and thus beat the unfair blockade on our steadfast country. It will be recalled that the previous purchase prices were: 50,000 dinars for 'Anbar and Nakazah, 43,500 dinars for Mishkhab, and 40,000 dinars for other types. [passage omitted]

Opposition Statement on Executions, Arrests

NC3110212394 Paris AFP in English 1906 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 31 (AFP)—The Iraqi authorities executed nine political opponents in September and arrested nearly 30 others early this month, the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) announced Monday [31 October].

The INC, which groups several factions opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, named seven people "executed on September 13," and said 28 others were arrested on October 7, in a statement received in Cyprus.

It did not name the other two executed.

"Most of these people were from Mosul and Ramadi" in northern Iraq, the INC said. The coalition is based in Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

Mosul and Ramadi are not controlled by the Kurdish authorities which seized power in an uprising against Baghdad following the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

Paper Views Significance of Saddam Commando Group

JN2910101794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct [dateline as received] (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says the Americans and the little dwarfs must understand the meaning of the Iraqi message on the setting up of the Saddam Commando Division and realize its great significance.

The paper say: Recently, with the feverish escalation of the U.S. aggression, the stalwart men of Iraq rose to counter the illusion that lives in the empty heads with further awareness and high readiness to sacrifice for the sake of the homeland and the leader of the future. Thousands of young Iraqi men began to join the Saddam Commando Division to serve as the spearhead in the fight against any tyrant force that seeks to infringe on our dignity.

The paper says: The boundless enthusiasm to set up the Saddam Command Division and the bravery and faith

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displayed by the volunteers constitute a clear and decisive Iraqi response to all enemy bets and attempts and confirm to the entire world that the Iraqis have chosen their own path.

The paper concludes: The Americans have tried all chapters of conspiracy and did not spare any means to inflict damage. They, however, failed against steadfast Iraq and its wise leadership.

Papers Attack Clinton Mideast Tour, Arab Regimes

Al-'IRAQ: Tour Reveals Arab Rifts

JN2810171294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0952 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has described Clinton's visit to the region as an event that has revealed the rift between the sons of the Arab nation and some of their leaders.

In a commentary today, the paper ridicules the claims by the media and press trumpets of certain Arab regimes, which considered the U.S. President's visit as glad tidings for the region, as the beginning of the era of peace, and as something welcomed by the Arab nation's sons.

AL-'IRAQ wonders: Should we believe what these trumpets are saying or should we turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the roadblocks, the great denunciation, and the voices that express anger at the ill-omened visit.

Concluding, the paper says: We believe Arab public opinion because we always wager on the Arab people and win our wager. We do not believe the heresies of Husni [Mubarak], the ululations of the al-Sabah family, the buzzing of the Al Sa'ud family, and the wailing of those who dream of having a seat on the train of tragedy they call the train of settlement.

AL-THAWRAH on Clinton Motives

JN3010113094 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct. 30, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily newspaper of Baghdad today said American President Bill Clinton and since assuming presidency maintained a hostile policy toward Iraq.

The paper said in an article today that President Clinton from now and then reiterates the same false allegations of his predecessor George Bush to justify the crimes perpetrated against the Iraqi people.

The paper said that any political observer could easily rebuffs the claims of Clinton for his administration bears responsibility of the death of thousands of the Iraqi people who are denied from food and medicine and other basic needs for normal life.

The paper added that this abhorred American attempts could deceive no one or make them believe such flagrant false allegations pointing out that Clinton's desperate attempt to drive a wedge between the people of Irac and their leadership is doomed to failure because of the magnificent cohesion and strong relationship between them.

The paper said that Clinton, suffering from the deep rift of the alliance against Iraq did not find what might satisfy him but recurring the false claims of his predecessor and supporting his slaves in the region.

OBSERVER on Arab Hostility to West

JN3010125694 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 30, INA—The English language newspaper "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" today said tour of the U.S. President Bill Clinton in the Middle East is an affront to Arab feelings. It comes at a time when U.S. gunships are flexing muscles in the Gulf region putting the whole region under U.S. occupation.

A paper editorial said the tour also aims at raising the political gains of President Bill Clinton at home when the two main political parties are vying with each other to win votes.

It also aims at pressurizing the Syrian regime to make similar deals with the Israelis since the Syrian regime has expressed its readiness to conclude such deals with Israel provided that the Israelis declare their intention to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

Peace would prevail only when around four million Palestinians who were displaced by Jewish settlers are allowed back from their forced diaspora.

Anyone with a sense of humanity must sympathize with the Palestinians whose lands are occupied.

They have no political rights and they are the victims of a misguided Israeli policy which believes that the security of it rests on mass killing of the Palestinians, on closing schools, illegitimate settlements, expulsion [of] freedom fighters and the destruction of their houses.

Nevertheless, the West and the U.S. still think that they could blithely continue to back the crimes of Israel, turn a blind eye to the massacre of the Palestinians of the intifadah.

Those who now wax eloquent about aspect for the sovereignty of states are silent as the night owl about the grave violation of Iraqi sovereignty, the continued genocide of Palestinians, and occupation of West Bank, the Golan Heights, and Jerusalem.

For this reason, there is now an open hostility in the Arab world to the U.S. and the West.

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Beilin on Clinton Visit, Future of Jerusalem

TA0111123494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says when the time comes Israel and the Palestinians can reach agreement on the future of Jerusalem. He told the Foreign Press Association the Palestinians understand Israel's feelings on Jerusalem much better than they care to admit. If there is a genuine will for peace, agreement will be found Beilin said. In his view, the Palestinian problem is the heart of the Middle East conflict: an open sore which must be healed otherwise there will be no comprehensive peace in the region. Beilin said the so-called Jordanian option is as dead as the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Turning to the negotiations with Syria, Beilin said the key issue is that of security arrangements. If that can be solved, he said, all the other problems will be overcome. Syria must agree to speed up negotiations, Beilin said, if an agreement is to be reached by next summer. On the other hand, Beilin maintained that the two sides are nearer to agreement than ever before.

[Begin Beilin recording] I believe that all of us know more or less what are the main components for the solution. The main formula is there. And for the first time in our history there is a kind of a precedent when simultaneously, we are ready to withdraw—although we did not refer to the exact boundaries—the Syrians are ready to normalize relations with us—although they did not refer to the exact kind of normalization, and both of us are ready that the Americans will be involved in achieving peace. The missing component here is mainly the process, and I believe that the last visit of President Clinton contributed much to the peace process in the Middle East and especially to the process between us and the Syrians, not only because of the significant development on one or more issues but mainly because of his personal commitment to help us in solving this very difficult problem. I think that here with the Syrians, the American involvement is indispensable, while between the Palestinians and ourselves it is mainly a problem between us two with all the difficulties, while the help of the world, the Americans, the Europeans, the Japanese, and the others will be mainly in the economic arena and not necessarily in the political one. [end recording]

Beilin welcomed the statement by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi offering six months of quiet on the border in return for an Israeli withdrawal. He said Israel is interested but the statement would have to be studied carefully and Israel would need clarifications from the Lebanese Government.

Closure Easing 'Delayed'; PA Controls Border

TA0111113994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's easing of the closure of the Gaza Strip, Jericho, and the West Bank has been delayed until tomorrow. The Civil Administration in the territories announced that tomorrow, 8,000 workers will be allowed into the country, half of them from the Gaza Strip and half from the West Bank—most of them construction workers.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal says only Palestinians whom officials believe are not security risks will be allowed to reenter. Other restrictions have also been imposed such as appropriate entry permits, evidence of a steady job, and age limits. No one under the age of 30 will be allowed into Israel. Before the closure more than 63,000 Palestinians received work permits.

The Palestinian Authority [PA] this morning took control of one of the branches of the Rafah border crossing on the Egyptian border. This afternoon, the PLO is also due to set up similar arrangements on the Allenby Bridge into Jordan. According to the Cairo agreement, Palestinian customs and security officials will supervise those wishing to enter the autonomous zones, although Israeli security officers will covertly supervise the procedure.

Some 8,000 Palestinians To Receive Entry Permits

TA0111054794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Civil Administration in the territories will today start issuing permits to 8,000 Palestinians for work in Israel within the framework of the closure's regulations. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that this is upon the instructions of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. According to the decision, 4,000 workers will be permitted to enter Israel from the Gaza Strip and another 4,000 from Judaea and Samaria.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that entry permits to Israel would be issued to Palestinians who are not considered security risks by the Israeli authorities. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that only Palestinians with new entry permits issued over the past few days would be permitted to enter Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Last night, there were three attempts to attack Israeli vehicles in Judaea and Samaria. There were no casualties. In Sammu', in the Hebron area, an explosive charge was detonated as an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol drove by. A military vehicle was slightly damaged. In Qabatiyah, a firebomb was hurled at an IDF patrol, and, in al-Birah, a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli bus. There were no casualties in the three incidents. Near Netzarim, in the Gaza Strip, a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol was stoned. The Palestinian policemen arrested a suspect.

Shahal Suggests Dialogue With 'Moderate' Hamas

TA3110193894 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Tziyon Nanus video report]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal today disclosed terror statistics which reveal a slight decline in the number of attacks during the year following the Oslo agreement. The total stands at 2,700 attacks, large and small, in the last year. Minister Shahal did not divulge the number of fatalities and casualties in these attacks. Our correspondent Tziyon Nanus reports:

[Begin recording] [Nanus] In terror statistics, blasts with dozens of casualties, stabbings, and stone throwings carry the same weight. The statistics thus show a drop in the total number of terrorist attacks in the year following the Oslo agreement: some 3,000 attacks in the last year, and about 300 less in the past year—about a 12 percent drop.

The drop in Jerusalem was even sharper. The number of attacks in the capital dropped by almost 50 percent, from 657 to 343.

Should we be pleased with this data?

[Shahal] I am not pleased, because despite the decline in the incidence of terrorist attacks, the nature of these attacks has worsened. This is our main concern.

[Nanus] The terrorists have become more sophisticated. Their car bombs and explosive devices were more lethal than in the past, and more Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists attempted suicide operations. The police minister says, however, that Hamas is not a homogeneous bloc:

[Shahal] Some Hamas factions do speak of the need for dialogue, but we are definitely against reinforcing the radical factions.

[Nanus] Mr. Shahal used the Labor faction forum which convened today to voice an uncommon proposal: Israel should enter negotiations with moderate Hamas elements. [end recording]

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House Votes To Refer Peace Treaty to Committee

JN3110142494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday [30 October] referred to its Foreign Affairs Committee the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty after a short debate in which opposition deputies questioned the constitutionality of the treaty and its compliance with the principles upon which the Kingdom entered the peace process in Madrid in 1991.

Forty-seven of 73 deputies present voted in favour of referring the treaty, which was presented to the House as a draft law, to the committee after reviewing the reasons for which the government wanted the draft legislation to be addressed with urgency. Forty-three out of 72 [number as published] lawmakers present voted in favour of addressing the draft with urgency.

The vote came after the majority of the House defeated an opposition motion to reject the treaty and another proposal to refer it to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution on the grounds that the treaty was unconstitutional. No explanation of this claim was presented.

In addition to the 13 Islamic Action Front (IAF) members present at the session, leftist deputies 'Abd al-Karim al-Dughmi (al-Mafraq), Bassam Haddadin (al-Zarqa'), Mustafa al-Shunaykat (al-Salt), Tujan Faysal (Amman), and Khalil Haddadin (Amman) voted in favour of the motion to reject the treaty.

The same deputies, 19 out of 73 present, voted in favour of referring the treaty to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution.

Opposition lawmakers attacked the treaty for its alleged unconstitutionality and failure to meet the principles upon which the Kingdom entered the peace talks. Along with others who support the treaty, they also criticized the "unconvincing reasons cited for requesting the House to address the draft law with urgency.

IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur (Amman) accused the government of deviating from its declared pursuit of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, contending that the treaty was neither just nor comprehensive.

Mr. Mansur said the government was "in a race with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) which (by the signing of the Oslo accord) started the most dangerous penetration of the Arab front."

"While the PNA unjustifiably postponed the discussion of the issue of Jerusalem, the treaty asserted religious sovereignty over the holy shrines in the city," ignoring the Arab and Muslim sovereignty over Jerusalem, said Mr. Mansur, whose party has vowed to fight the treaty with all its power.

Mr. Mansur also attacked the treaty for what he described as ignoring Arab and Muslim land which was occupied while under the sovereignty of the Kingdom and for sending the Kingdom into "a strategic alliance with the enemies of the nation."

The Islamist deputy was referring to the West Bank, which was occupied in 1967 when it was part of the Kingdom but is now the responsibility of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Leftist deputies Haddadin and al-Shunaykat said that while they believe in peace as "an ambition for all people," they reject the treaty the Kingdom signed with Israel last week for failing to comply with the requirements of international legitimacy.

"We believe (the treaty) violated all the decisions of international legitimacy, starting with (U.N. Security Council) resolutions 194 and 237 as well as resolutions 242 and 338," the two deputies said in a joint statement read by Dr. al-Shunaykat.

They said the treaty constitutes a dangerous turning point that endangers the future of the country, gives away many of its rights and pushes the Kingdom towards alliance with Israel and away from the Arab countries.

Deputy Muhammad al-Dawudiyah (al-Tafilah), who did not vote in favour of rejecting the treaty, criticized the government for failing to seize the opportunity to explain the reasons for signing it to the people.

He said the government "out of lack of concern rather than respect," hastily drafted the reasons why it wants it to be addressed speedily.

IAF deputies rejected government assertions that the House had approved the government's policy for pursuing peace with Israel through the votes of confidence it gave to successive governments.

The government made the assertion in the one-page statement in which it explained the reasons why the treaty should be looked into with urgency.

In the statement, the government also said the treaty must be debated by Parliament speedily in order "to regain the Jordanian rights in land and water, to protect the country from threats and conspiracy and to ascertain the Kingdom's borders."

It said the treaty realises all Jordanian rights in land, water, security and borders and guarantees the right of refugees and displaced persons.

The opposition deputies rejected these assertions.

While the opposition appeared determined to discredit the treaty and slow the process of debating it officially by the legislature, lawmakers who support it focused on ending discussion of the treaty and sending it to the Foreign Affairs committee where the debate would start officially.

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President of the committee 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti, a supporter of the treaty, said debate on the treaty should start in earnest by his group which will later present it to the House for debate.

The committee will hold its first meeting today.

Second Crossing To Open on Ratification of Treaty

NC3110164594 Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 31 (AFP)—The opening of a second Israel-Jordan crossing has been delayed until the peace treaty goes into effect with the ratification by parliament here and a royal decree, a Jordanian official said Monday [31 October].

The "al-Shaykh Husayn" crossing south of the Sea of Galilee was to have been opened five days after the two countries signed their treaty on October 26 under the terms of the agreement.

"The crossing will only be opened once the treaty becomes official with a royal decree following its ratification by both houses of parliament," the official told AFP.

Parliament's foreign affairs committee has since Sunday been studying the treaty which requires a simple majority of the 80 deputies in the assembly. The king has the support of most of the deputies.

The crossing will be the second after the one at Wadi al-'Arabah near the Gulf of 'Aqaba, inaugurated on August 8 for third-country tourists by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Crown Prince Hasan Ibn-Talal of Jordan.

It will be located near al-Shaykh Husayn bridge on the Jordan River, opposite Maoz Haim Kibbutz in the Jordan Valley.

For years Palestinians in the West Bank used the Allenby bridge to cross to and from Jordan.

No Official Israeli Contacts Before Ratification

JN0111112394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Nov 94 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—AL-RA'Y—A responsible source at the Prime Ministry has said that the Jordanian Government prefers not to make direct contact with Israel or have Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali or any other minister visit Israel before the peace treaty between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel passes through its constitutional stages. That is, until after the ratification of the treaty by both the Senate and House of Representatives followed by a royal decree that endorses the treaty as a law.

The source told AL-RA'Y that Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali postponed several requests to give press and television interviews to the Israeli media until the treaty is ratified. [passage omitted]

Party Supports Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty

JN3110172194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian National Alliance Party has issued a statement after holding several meetings designed to study the Jordanian-Israeli treaty. The statement stressed the party's support for the treaty.

This support stems from the treaty's stipulations about Jordan's sovereign rights over occupied Jordanian territory and about Jordan's water rights. The party also supports the treaty because it embodies the political will of the Hashemite leadership in terms of preserving Jordan, entrenching its role, and securing its present and future, the statement added.

Al-Majali: Treaty To Have No Bearing on Civil Status

JN3110114194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Sunday [30 October] the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will not affect the status of Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin.

They are Jordanians, they carry the Jordanian nationality and they have full rights and duties like all Jordanians, said the prime minister at a meeting with a visiting group of Americans representing the U.S. Committee for Interfaith Dialogue for Middle East Peace.

The West Bank had been made part of the Kingdom of Jordan prior to 1967 as a result of the decision of people on both banks in 1950, and the Jordanians of Palestinian origin will continue to enjoy their Jordanian nationality, he said.

Jordan, said the prime minister, does not seek a dispute with the Palestinians over their sovereignty over the city of Jerusalem, but is holding on to its guardianship of the holy places until the Israelis and the Palestinians reach a final settlement over the issue.

The Kingdom's responsibility for the holy places began before the 1967 war and continued afterwards until today, and it will not abandon this responsibility now because that would be a gain for the Israelis, Dr. al-Majali added.

Referring to the peace treaty signed last Wednesday, Dr. al-Majali said that it would not go into effect unless it has been endorsed by Parliament and later ratified by His Majesty King Husayn.

He told the visitors, who represent individuals of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths living in the United States, that the peace treaty with Israel guarantees the

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return of Jordan's land and water rights and ensures security and stability for both sides.

Dr. al-Majali said Jordan hopes that the treaty would help reduce the Kingdom's economic burdens which were caused in part by the 1948, 1967 and 1990 migrations into the Kingdom of Palestinians.

Defending Jordan's decision to sign the peace treaty with Israel, Dr. al-Majali said the accord did not conflict with the progress on the other Arab-Israeli tracks. The treaty, he stressed, is part of an overall settlement without which peace would remain incomplete.

As to Iraq, he said that it also should be included in the Arab-Israeli peace process, but added that he could not speculate when this might develop within the concept of a comprehensive peace.

He repeated Jordan's position that Amman was against the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and said that His Majesty King Husayn had sought to end that crisis peacefully.

Dr. al-Majali said Jordan refuses to support any Arab party which attempts to meddle in the internal affairs of other Arab countries or launch any aggression against another.

The visitors met earlier with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan and discussed the peace treaty and reviewed Jordanian-U.S. relations.

Palestinian Embassy To Authenticate West Bank Papers

JN2910203194 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 29 Oct 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Umar al-Khatib, Palestinian charge d'affaires [in Amman], has said that the embassy is now authorized to authenticate documents for West Bank citizens, issue birth certificates, and renew passports or issue new ones.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ASWAQ, al-Khatib said that during recent talks in Amman, the Palestinian National Authority agreed on this issue. Jordanian officials were extremely cooperative in facilitating measures taken to authenticate documents issued in the West Bank, following the Jordanian Government's decision to apply the administrative and legal disengagement measure, which was taken in July 1988, on the West Bank's awqaf [religious endowments], excluding Jerusalem.

During recent talks with a delegation from the self-rule authority, the Jordanian Government pledged not to take any measures that would cause difficulties in handling documents for West Bank citizens. It also pledged to ease all measures concerning the authentication of documents issued in the West Bank.

Al-Khatib said that the authentication of documents for West Bank citizens is not being obstructed. On the contrary, all matters concerning this issue are going on in a normal manner.

Protests Against Treaty, Attack on Deputy Reported

JN2910113694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—An outspoken opponent of the peace treaty with Israel was slightly injured in clashes after Friday prayers at a mosque in Amman, as police used teargas to break up a demonstration in the northern city of Irbid, sources said.

Meanwhile, a multitude of organisations issued statements supporting the peace treaty.

But the Professional Associations Union, an umbrella group, announced a boycott against people dealing with Israel.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz Abu-Zant was taken to King Husayn Medical Centre after suffering minor injuries in clashes with police after delivering a sermon against the peace treaty that Jordan and Israel signed Wednesday, IAF sources claimed.

But a government spokesman said the deputy was hurt in clashes inside the Abu-Hurayrah Mosque in the Jabal al-Akhdar area in east Amman when clashes erupted during prayers.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the unnamed official as saying Mr. Abu-Zant had defied an order not to address the prayers and prevented the designated preacher, Sami al-Najjar, from speaking, thus provoking the al-Najjar supporters who clashed with Mr. Abu-Zant and his followers inside the mosque before the fighting spread outside.

The spokesman said Mr. Abu-Zant was injured in the clash and police intervened to break up the fight. He said an official investigation will be launched.

But IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur told the Jordan Times that police beat Shaykh Abu-Zant outside the mosque after delivering the "balanced" speech in which he attacked the peace process.

He contended the attack against the deputy, known for his fiery speeches, was unjustified and had nothing to do with the sermon he gave. He claimed police were around the mosque before the noon prayers started and tried to prevent him from speaking.

The government spokesman said the name of the preacher at the mosque was published in the newspapers and Shaykh Abu-Zant knew he was not supposed to deliver the sermon.

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In Irbid, para-military troops broke up a demonstration that was organised by the Islamic Action Front and seven other leftist and pan-Arabist parties that oppose peace with Israel.

Mr. Mansur said the parties had received permission to stage the rally from the local authorities but security forces prevented the rally through firing teargas and beating some of the people.

Mr. Mansur said two IAF deputies, 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ukur and Ahmad al-Kofahi, wee among the demonstrators who gathered in front of the grand mosque in the centre of Irbid about 80 km north of Amman. He said the deputies were not attacked by police who attacked other participants in the rally.

Agence France Presse quoted a member of the Socialist Ba'th Party as saying that at least one person was injured in the confrontation.

Ahmad al-Mutlaq was quoted as saying demonstratorss chanted "no to surrender" and "the land of Jordan is the land of our ancestors. No to leasing it to the villains."

Mr. Mansur, whose party said it would use all its power to fight the peace treaty with Israel, said that police also tried to prevent a demonstration in al-Zarqa'.

He said the demonstration, which was led by IAF Deputy Bassam al-'Umush, ended peacefully after Dr. al-'Umush delivered a speech against peace with Israel.

Anti-riot police were posted around mosques in Amman and other cities in the Kingdom in a show of force against possible disturbances.

No other confrontations were reported and sermons in many mosques were shorter than usual, and in some cases restricted to recitations from the Holy Koran. The Ministry of Awqaf appoints mosque preachers for Friday sermons.

"The government is acting with unjustified oversensitivity," Mr. Mansur contended, adding that the IAF's 16-member bloc in Parliament will demand that other lawmakers "stand up in defence of democracy.

The IAF spokesman said his party, the largest and most organised in the Kingdom, will continue to resist the peace treaty through "constitutional and democratic means."

The peace treaty is expected to be presented to Parliament for ratification today and all indications are that the Islamists will not be able to bloc it. Over 50 out of the 80 members of legislature have already announced support for Jordan's policy in the peace process.

Yesterday's disturbances were the first in the Kingdom since the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25.

The IAF criticism of the Jordan-Israel accord was one of a few voices expressing the same sentiments, other political parties, unions, municipal councils and tribal leaders issued statements expressing support for the treaty.

The General Union for Jordanian Workers congratulated His Majesty King Husayn on the peace accord, pledging complete allegiance to the Hashemite leadership.

The union denied reports by Israeli Television that it has called for a general strike to protest the treaty, saying in a statement carried by Petra that it fully supports the steps the Kingdom has taken in the peace process with Israel.

A smiliar stand was expressed by the centrist al-Yaqazah [Awakening] Party, which said in a cable to King Husayn that the party "announces its support for your Arab position."

"The fast changing world, whose political map is being redrawn, requires that political leaders work to protect their homelands with a futuristic look," the party said in a cable, which was signed by its secretary general, Minister of State and Minister of Education 'Abd-al-Rauf al-Rawabidah.

The Popular Unity Party praised the "balanced" peace treaty that opens the door for Jordanians to develop their country and realise their ambitions.

"We received with pride the treaty which ended half a century of hatred and bloodshed among the sons of the same grandfather, Abraham," Talal al-Ramahi, secretary general of the party, said in a cable he sent to King Husayn.

Petra said the Royal Court has received tens of similar cables of support from municipal councils, tribal leaders, youth clubs and social societies. [passage omitted]

Damascus Radio on Attack on Deputy, Anti-Peace Moves

JN3010105094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Jordanian House of Representatives denounced the attack against the Islamic Action Front [IAF] Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant outside Abu-Hurayrah Mosque following the Friday prayers.

In a statement yesterday, the House announced that it has set up a 12-member parliamentary committee to investigate and follow up Abu-Zant's case. It called on the government to refer the case to the prosecutor general and to investigate the matter.

'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, an IAF deputy, yesterday told the House of Representatives that he will address the king through the House and not the government because the matter is beyond its ability to give a true answer. He wondered: Does ending the state of belligerency with

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Israel mean that we have become enemies of the regime since we are enemies of Israel? He added: If we have become so, then we have to reconsider our political, party, and parliamentary positions since we have become an alien body.

He said: The Islamic Movement is working on foiling the Israeli schemes, which seek to ignite a civil war. He stressed that the Movement will not under any circumstance allow the Jordanian people to engage in a bloodbath, on which the enemy can build his expansionist scheme.

The IAF bloc issued a statement accusing security forces personnel of attacking Deputy Abu-Zant before taking him to hospital. The statement accuses the Jordanian Government of distorting the truth.

The Jordanian opposition parties denounced what they called the Government attack against the freedom of expression which the official government agencies carried out against the popular moves in the governorates of Irbid, al-Zarqa', and Amman in which the citizens voiced their positions that reject the Israeli-Jordanian treaty, which was signed late last week.

A statement by the opposition parties' media spokesman, circulated in Amman yesterday, accused the Government of launching arrest campaigns in al-Zarqa' and intensifying its military presence. The statement said the government agencies attacked and injured Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant and tried to attack Deputy Ahmad al-Kufahi in an Irbid rally. The same agencies launched an arrest campaign in al-Yarmuk University and beat up a number of students. The campaign also involved the arrests of several political party leaders in al-Zarqa' on Wednesday and Thursday, the statement adds.

The Jordanian Arab Constitutional Front strongly denounced the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and considered it a departure from Arab coordination and a separate solution that enabled Israel to achieve its designs at the expense of Jordan's national interest and Arab ties.

A statement issued by the Jordanian National Movement, circulated in Amman yesterday, denounced the treaty and said it flagrantly infringes on Jordan's national sovereignty, links the Jordanian economy to the Israeli economy, and destroys Jordan's Arab ties. The statement urged vigilance and awareness to foil the treaty and turn it into mere ink on paper.

In the occupied West Bank, thousands of Palestinians demonstrated to denounce Jordan's position and burned pictures of Jordan's King Husayn. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS reports that the Palestinian protesters, who organized the demonstration in Janin, raised a big banner saying "Jerusalem is for the Palestinians Only." The news agency also reported that the demonstrators chanted slogans against King Husayn and shouted "Jerusalem is Ours."

IAF Protests Attack on Fundamentalist Deputy

JN2910112094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, al-Zarqa', Irbid—AL-RA'Y, PETRA—A demonstration that was expected to proceed from the 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab Mosque Square to the bus terminal in downtown al- Zarqa' after the Friday prayers yesterday was canceled. The demonstration had been called for by eight parties opposed to the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, including the Islamic Action Front [IAF].

Using the mosque's loudspeakers, Islamic Deputy Bassam al-'Umush addressed several hundred demonstrators assembled outside the mosque and asked them to disperse and not to proceed with the demonstration. He said: "It will be difficult for us to go ahead with this demonstration for reasons known to some of us." He added: "We are against demonstrations which result in sabotage. Our position on the treaty is known. Therefore, I entreat you to disperse calmly."

Eight opposition parties had decided on Monday [24 October] to stage a demonstration opposed to the agreement. The decision was conveyed to the al-Zarqa' governor. Negotiations were held between the parties and the governor on that subject. The parties' leaders in al-Zarqa' met on Thursday to discuss the issue.

Samih al-Ma'ayitah, member of the IAF administrative board of the al-Zarqa' branch, said that five IAF members and two Jordanian People's Democratic Party activists were detained on Thursday after the meeting. However, they were released before the Friday prayers. [passage omitted]

In Amman, a group of public security men were stationed in a square close to the al-Fatah Mosque in al-Mahattah neighborhood that is usually used by Islamists to hold speech rallies.

In another development, eyewitnesses have said that supporters of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty attacked Islamic Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant after a row broke out between the two parties in the Abu- Hurayrah Mosque in the Hayy Nazzal neighborhood. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Shaykh Deputy Abu-Zant said that he "sustained wounds to the head, arms, and one of his legs." He is still receiving treatment at the Farah Center in the Husayn Medical Center.

After an emergency meeting of its Executive Bureau yesterday, the IAF issued a statement protesting the attack on Deputy 'Abd-al- Mun'im Abu-Zant, saying that the attack on him resulted "in a large cut to the head and several body wounds." The statement added that a number of worshipers were also injured.

The statement said that a number of IAF deputies tried to visit Deputy Abu-Zant at the Husayn Medical Center, but were barred from doing so.

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The statement added that "security forces besieged a number of mosques in Amman, al-Zarqa', Irbid, and al-Salt, and prevented demonstrations to protest the peace treaty, although demonstrating is a right guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution."

The eight parties held a meeting last night at the IAF headquarters to discuss the Friday events. AL-RA'Y attended part of the meeting.

IAF Spokesman Deputy Hamzah Mansur told al-RA'Y: "We denounce attacks on citizens. In this meeting, which is attended by the secretaries general of opposition parties or their representatives, we are discussing what should be done and how to deal with the matter in the appropriate way. He added: We have drafted a memorandum urging members of the House of Representatives to move to confront the consequences of such an attack. We have also addressed a memorandum to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Liberties Committee."

Hamzah Mansur said that an IAF official was detained in al-Salt for inciting anti-treaty demonstrations. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports Arrests of Muslim Brotherhood Members

JN3110152994 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 26 Oct 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-UFUQ has learned from sources in the Muslim Brotherhood that a number of Brotherhood members have been arrested. The sources said the arrests were made primarily in Amman and the Jordan Valley.

These sources considered the arrests as an escalation by the Government despite the fact that the Brotherhood committed itself to using peaceful means in resisting the peace process. They added that the arrests, which included ordinary members and not the Brotherhood leadership, were made in the wake of the stabbing of a U.S. tourist. Israeli radio said he was a Jewish American.

Brotherhood Leader Views Treaty, Other Issues

JN3110195794 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 26 Oct 94 p 6

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, has said Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood supports anyone who resists the Zionist Jewish occupiers and fights to expel them from our land and sanctities, especially since this is a legitimate right.

Answering AL-BILAD's question about the nature of the relationship between the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], al-Dhunaybat said: Out of our Islamic duty and in harmony with our religious and political constants, we bless any effort to resist the occupation. This is a right enjoyed by all peoples under occupation.

Al-Dhunaybat noted that the Muslim Brotherhood considers resistance against enemy schemes by Hamas and all the mujahidin forces in Palestine or on any other Islamic land a legitimate right recognized by God and man. He said Hamas is a Palestinian movement which has a cause to defend, and a usurped right which it works to restore. He said it has the right to do so, pointing out that its leadership is in Palestine, and that this leadership is in charge of making decisions regarding Hamas' activities and jihad.

Regarding the concerns about the government's harassment of Hamas following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty due to its opposition to the treaty, and how it would move to thwart it, al-Dhunaybat said: All options are open to us. The Muslim Brotherhood is capable of dealing with these options.

He noted that the Jordanian Government has said that it will respect the opposition and its right to express its viewpoint. He stressed that the Muslim Brotherhood will express its opposition through available legitimate peaceful means, saying that it will use all peaceful means to foil the treaty and to paralyze its effects, especially since such treaties benefit regimes, not peoples.

Answering a question about the change in the Muslim Brotherhood's stand toward the issue of Iraq compared with their stand after 1990, al-Dhunaybat said: The essence of the Muslim Brotherhood's stand has not changed. It is based on four elements from which we proceeded in 1990, and which we we confirmed with some clarification in our recent statement, namely, that we are with the Iraqi people in their ordeal, and call for lifting the blockade clamped on them. The Iraqi people have become a victim of the conflicts in the region, and a target of the aggression of the foreign forces which seek to destroy them and to crush their force.

Al-Dhunaybat noted that the Muslim Brotherhood calls for settling border problems and differences over interests among the Arab brothers through dialogue, arbitration, and by giving predominance to the interests of the Arab nation and its peoples.

He said: Based on this, we reject the use of force and the settling of problems by launching wars and storming borders. We also reject the interference of foreign forces, and we consider it an aggression against our nation's sovereignty, freedom, and independence. We also reject any measures or practices that would provide justifications for this colonialist interference.

Al-Dhunaybat denied that the Muslim Brotherhood's recent stand was influenced by the official Jordanian stand. He stressed that the essence of the Brotherhood's stand is firm and has not changed. He also denied that their stand was influenced by external factors, because it

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is based on religious constants. He said: This does not keep us from agreeing with others on these constants. He also strongly denied that this stand was influenced by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt or somewhere else.

Asked how the Muslim Brotherhood views Saddam Husayn and to explain what has recently taken place in the Gulf, al-Dhunaybat said: We call on the Iraqi leadership to learn a lesson from its past experience and to give the Iraqi people a chance to exercise their right to free thinking, expression, and political action. On several occasions, the Iraqi leadership has promised to introduce such changes. However, we have not yet seen anything on the ground. We were pained by recent news reports about the arrest and execution of some Muslim youths and scholars by the Iraqi regime.

Al-Dhunaybat added: Our stand toward the Iraqi issue is the same stand toward the rest of the Arab leaders. We judge rulers based on our Arab and political constants.

Al-Dhunaybat called for reconciliation among the Arab peoples and regimes. He said that they are bound together by the same religion and common interests, something which is much better and useful than reconciliation with our enemies and the enemies of our nation.

He said: In 1990, a number of Muslim Brotherhood preachers focused on only one element in the crisis, due to its seriousness. They focused on the U.S. and Western onslaught, considering it a danger posed to the nation. What we have warned of has actually happened. The humiliating capitulatory solutions with the enemy we are currently experiencing are the result of the Gulf war and its repercussions. This is why we were clear in our warning and rejection of the Iraqi troop concentrations on the Kuwaiti borders so that they will not be used as a pretext for a new foreign interference to be exploited by America to resolve its internal problems, including unemployment, to market its war production, and to blackmail the Gulf states by forcing them to pay tribute of $4.5 billion.

IAF Statement on Casablanca 'Repercussions' Cited

JN3110150294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Jordanian Islamic Action Front [IAF] has condemned the Middle East economic conference currently convening in Casablanca, Morocco, and warned against its serious repercussions on the Arab nation's economy.

In a statement issued today, the IAF added that the attendance of this conference by an Israeli delegation comprising 100 experts and members under Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as well as delegations from most Arab states is the last nail in the coffin of the economic boycott of Israel. The IAF deemed the convocation of the conference as both weird and unlawful.

The IAF added that the convocation of this conference is the first negative and unpleasant product of the unilateral peace agreements concluded with Israel. This move is deemed a large-scale penetration of the Arab economic market in Israel's favor. The hospitality accorded to the Israeli delegation, and the failure of some Arab states to attend the conference regrettably usher in the practical elimination of the Arab League, which has been replaced by the nomenclature the Middle East League. This is an illegal revocation of the boycott and a serious penetration of the last rampart of Arab economy.

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Al-Hirawi Prepared To Form Committee With Israel

NC2910125794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 29 Oct (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has expressed his country's readiness to accept a step on the part of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to embark immediately on setting up a joint Lebanese-Israeli political and military committee to hold negotiations to work out a timetable for withdrawal from the Lebanese territories to international lines within six months.

In an exclusive interview with Mustafa Najib, chairman of the board of directors and chief editor of the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, al-Hirawi said: I warrant that not a single bullet will be fired during that period, provided that Israel commits itself to withdrawal in accordance with the timetable that will be agreed upon.

Al-Hirawi affirmed that the Lebanese Army is fully prepared to deploy immediately and to maintain security and stability in all the Lebanese territories that will be liberated in the occupied border strip in the south and Western al-Biqa' in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

He added that it is high time for Israel to declare its willingness to turn its words into deeds and prove that it does not need to stay in south Lebanon and that it has no ambitions in Lebanese waters or lands.

Asked about Lebanon's readiness to handle peace and normalization, al-Hirawi said that Lebanon will not deviate from the Arab line and will not embark on normalization independently.

More on al-Hirawi Remarks

NC3110150394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1247 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 31 Oct (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has reasserted Lebanon's adherence to the need to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for the liberation of all Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation. He stressed that the Lebanese Army can guarantee security and stability up to the international border if Israel pledges to withdraw within six months according to a specific timetable guaranteed by the two cosponsors of the peace process, the Untied States and Russia.

In an exclusive statement to Mustafa Najib, MENA Board chairman and editor in chief, President al-Hirawi said that Lebanon insists on continuing with the peace process. He noted that the joint political Lebanese-Israeli committee led on the Lebanese side by Ambassador Suhayl Shammas still exists despite the stalemate in the peace process on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

Answering a question on the Lebanese reaction should Israel accept his proposal, President al-Hirawi said he would address the Lebanese people to announce the good tidings and tell them that we have reached what we aspired to, that is, ending the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and Western al-Biqa', and that from now on there will be no need to continue the resistance after reaching the holy goal for which it was established.

In a statement to MENA Chief Editor Mustafa Najib the day before yesterday, President al-Hirawi expressed Lebanon's readiness to accept a step by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to immediately begin forming a joint political military committee between Lebanon and Israel to negotiate a timetable for withdrawal from Lebanese territory up to the international border within six months. He also pledged that no single bullet would be fired during this period, providing Israel agrees to withdraw after the period in accordance with a timetable to be worked out by the two parties.

Buwayz on Talks With Israel, Joint Committee

JN3110190194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Salah Salamah on 31 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salamah] Your Excellency Faris Buwayz, Lebanese Foreign Minister, President Ilyas al-Hirawi announced the day before yesterday the readiness to form a joint military and political committee with Israel to discuss a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied south during a period of six months. What is the content and dimensions of this proposal, and how do you believe it will be implemented on the ground?

[Buwayz] With respect to the question of forming a joint military committee, this topic was discussed during the negotiations between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations in Washington. At that time, Lebanon voiced reservations over this issue so long as the committee does not have a specific and explicit task to do. We believe that any committee must have a clear objective. For the Lebanese state, the clear objective is full Israeli withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders to enable the Lebanese state to exercise all its authority. After we had set this condition, we did not receive any clear reply from the Israeli side.

We proceed from the principle that if there is a need to manage the current state of affairs, then there is the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization which still exists, since the armistice agreement. Why then form new committees? If what is required is to manage the security situation, there are the international forces. But, if there is a clear and explicit intention to achieve some progress in these negotiations, then let Israel commit itself to the principle of full withdrawal to the international borders. Then, this committee will have an objective, and this committee will set a timetable for the

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withdrawal in addition to studying all the security requirements that are needed to ensure secure borders.

[Salamah] There is a U.S.-backed Israeli demand for disarming the resistance in southern Lebanon. Last August, Yitzhaq Rabin proposed an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon within nine months only if the resistance in the south was disarmed in advance. Are you ready to stop resistance operations before you begin negotiations with Israel on a timetable for the withdrawal?

[Buwayz] I reiterate that resistance is only an outcome of the occupation. Resistance is not a hobby. It is a result of Israel's occupation of Lebanese territory. We will not discuss an end to resistance in isolation of the issue of Israel's withdrawal. I believe any discussion should cover both issues. Here, cagey proposals that Lebanon should stop resistance and undergo a test period before knowing the direction in which events will move are not a sound negotiating stand. Serious proposals that cover both points will be discussed seriously.

[Salamah] Do you demand covering both points?

[Buwayz] Of course.

[Salamah] Your Excellency the Minister: You are coordinating with Syria on the details of the negotiations, but some people say that the success of Lebanese President al-Hirawi's practical proposals and steps depend on Syria's readiness to support it. Have you got Syria's support for those proposals?

[Buwayz] I believe that his excellency the president has explained and stressed Lebanon's frank position since the negotiations. During the president's presence in New York in 1991, Lebanon urged Israel to respond to a proposal based on the principle of withdrawal according to a timetable. President Bush voiced his commitment to that condition in the presence of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at that time. I believe that this commitment still exists. The state is also committed to controlling security if that withdrawal takes place.

[Salamah] Your excellency, Lebanon, Syria, and some other Arab states are not participating in the international economic summit currently being held in Casablanca, in Morocco. Israel is participating, along with most of the Arab states, in this summit. How do you assess the work of this conference in light of the absence of comprehensive peace in the Middle East? Is it possible that this conference is another decisive step toward lifting the Arab boycott of Israel?

[Buwayz] I believe the answer to this question is included in the question itself. You have clearly said that this conference which is being held in Morocco is taking place before the achievement of peace. This is the major reason behind our reservations. We believe the multilateral talks, whether direct or indirect talks—taking into consideration that the conference currently being held in Morocco is part of the indirect multilateral talks—should be the result of a peace decision, a result of peace which we should know its form and contents. Based on this, we cannot begin with complementary steps as long as we are still in a position where we can neither tell whether peace is coming, nor know the form of this peace. I believe that joining the multilateral talks or any such kind of conferences by Lebanon cannot take place before Lebanon becomes reassured about the restoration of its rights. How can we discuss issues related to banks, tourism, and other issues while southern Lebanon is being exposed to daily shelling, and while there are martyrs and prisoners in the Israeli prisons? We believe that any discussion of the results of peace must take place after the achievement of peace.

[Salamah] Your excellency, as we can see, Israel is making more breakthroughs in the Arab ranks without abiding by the resolutions of the international legitimacy and implementing the land-for-peace principle. How do you assess that situation in the region in the wake of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty, and do you have plans in Lebanon to avoid the current Israeli containment processes in the Middle East?

[Buwayz] We do not want to teach lessons to anyone. We believe that we have proceeded with these negotiations from the position of the unity of Arab ranks and Arab solidarity. Some sides believed that their deviation from this solidarity would bring them additional positions or interests. We leave this judgment for the advocates of this opinion. As for us in Lebanon, we believe that any negotiations on peace should take place between parties who have positions and cards. Based on this, we believe that asking the Arab side to throw all its cards, whether by lifting the boycott, by joining the multilateral talks, or by any other means, cannot serve the principle of negotiations or just peace. Otherwise, we should stop negotiations, throw out our cards, and rely only on the good intentions of the other party. I believe negotiations have their own rules. Respect for these rules and for the balance of these rules can guarantee the achievement of a just and reasonable peace that all sides can defend.

[Salamah] Thanks to His Excellency Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz for this interview withe Radio Monte Carlo.

Further on Joint Committee

NC3110210194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that Lebanon's proposal to form a joint committee with Israel to discuss its withdrawal from the south is dependent on Israel's prior commitment to such a withdrawal.

He told REUTER: We believe that the principle of a military committee will be justified when Israel announces a promise or pledge to withdraw. He said

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Lebanon seeks an Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal from all Lebanese territories beyond the internationally recognized border in a manner that will allow the Lebanese state to consolidate its authority on its own.

He added: We have not yet received from the Israeli side a clear and open response. So far Israel has not changed its stance that it has no ambitions in Lebanese territory and waters. This is not a practical political stance but mere theoretical talk.

He noted that a military committee with ambiguous goals is not justifiable.

Hizballah Rejects Proposal on Joint Committee

NC3110143094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with MENA, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri affirmed that Lebanon is concerned with peace and with the implementation of Resolution 425 and full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory.

In an internal stand, Hizballah has indirectly responded to the president's speech, in which he indicated Lebanon's readiness to form a joint committee [with Israel]. This came in a press seminar held by [Hizballah] Deputy al-Sayyid Ibrahim al-Amin in which he praised the recent operation by the resistance. He said: This operation affirms that there will be no peace or reconciliation now or in the future with the Zionist enemy. Resistance is the only option. Regarding Israel's demand that Hizballah be disarmed as a condition for withdrawal, he said: We are outside this matter. We are not concerned about an agreement with the enemy. This country is our homeland, and we will continue to resist. He added that there is no benefit to forging agreements and brokering peace at the expense of the homeland. Resistance is our option and brokering peace is an attempt to contain resistance.

Hizballah Refutes U.S.-Israeli Charges

NC2810132394 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 26 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has called on world public opinion to look more closely at the reality of the situation in our region in order to realize the magnitude of Zionist acts of aggression against our peoples. It called on the international community to meet with the victims of Zionist terrorism in Lebanon and Palestine to see for themselves who are the terrorists and who are the victims.

Hizballah appealed to human rights organizations and advocates of free speech to rally around the legitimate right of our peoples to express their views free from constant Zionist acts of terrorism and U.S. pressure.

In response to U.S.-Israeli statements against the resistance men in Lebanon and Palestine, Hizballah released the following statement:

These days the U.S. Administration, in coordination with the Zionist enemy, is launching a political and media campaign under the slogan of allegedly "combating terrorism." This campaign is part of the U.S.-Israeli policy aimed at revising the situation in the region to secure Zionist superiority and ensure the continued hegemony of the arrogant forces. This campaign reveals the true face of the so-called peace process, which in essence is imposed surrender and humiliation and the theft of all legitimate rights, including the most basic one—freedom of identity.

What we are witnessing these days is considered to be the worst form of reversal of roles: A victim is considered to be a killer and a criminal is considered innocent; and right becomes bargainable and gratuitous leasing. However, our kinfolk, who have repeatedly suffered from destitution, displacement, and slaughter, will not forget the continuing specter of Zionist terrorism taking place under the sponsorship and cover of American arrogance. The blood of children and old people on the walls of that destroyed home in al- Nabatiyah al-Fawqa has not dried. It was destroyed by a lethal and internationally banned weapon. Cluster bombs occasionally go off in the hands of farmers tending their fields, fields whose crops have dried up and cannot be reaped because of daily random acts of aggression by a handful of terrorists entrenched on certain hills of the occupied south.

The effects of the massive, week-long air raids last summer, which destroyed thousands of homes and killed dozens of people, are still alive in our hearts and on our land. This long list of Zionist acts of terrorism against our kinfolk is endless. Every time the authorities lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council, the United States vetoes any statement condemning Israeli aggression, thus pardoning and condoning Israel's crimes against our people. The coordinated U.S.-Israeli return to the use of a false slogan is in fact aimed at the following:

1. To cover up for past and planned Zionist crimes by turning the facts upside down and falsifying them. This is done by exploiting the international media machine controlled by the United States to alter perceptions about the Zionist usurpation of territories and rights and to portray the free resistance to humilation and shame as condemnable and abominable international terrorism. All this aims to mobilize the international community and its resources to serve U.S.-Israeli ambitions of hegemony and domination.

2. To attempt to deprive nations which resist global arrogance of their right to express their free will by branding the practical measures that these nations take to defend their rights as terrorist acts. The facts, however, show that these nations are wronged and suffer physical and moral persecution by blood-covered Zionist hands.

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3. To provide new means to blackmail the various parties in the region into adopting certain political stances and making major concessions that force them to abandon their minimum demands.

4. To depict Arab-Islamic society as being divided between terrorists and peace-loving people and to encourage an Arab civil war as a means of destroying the power of Arab steadfastness vis-a-vis Zionist infiltration.

While putting the implications of the new U.S.-Zionist campaign under the spotlight, we urge world public opinion to take a closer look at the real conditions in our region so that it might see the facts as they are and appreciate the magnitude of Zionist aggression against our nation's dignity and existence.

We urge the leaders of world opinion to meet directly with the victims of Zionist terrorism in Lebanon and Palestine and see for themselves who the victims are and who the terrorists are. In this connection, it is necessary to urge influential opinion makers to avoid racial bias in their coverage of facts and events and to be balanced and objective in presenting the facts to the world.

We urge the organizations who advocate human rights and freedom of expression to show solidarity with our people's right to express their position free from Zionist terrorism and constant U.S. pressures.

We address all political forces and draw their attention to the fact that U.S.-Zionist propaganda will not prevent our people from continuing to confront the efforts seeking to force them comply and surrender. Our people will continue to resist Zionist aggression on the basis of an equal response to every action. Our people are fully confident that by clinging firmly to their rights, falsehood will be dispelled and truth will become evident. "To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight because they are wronged, and verily God is most powerful for their aid." [Koranic verse]

Shiite Leader Says Clinton Visit Not for Peace

NC2810130494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has announced that U.S. President Bill Clinton's regional tour was not for the purpose of establishing peace as such or peace as we understand it, but was a consecration of a qualitatively new step forward for the Zionist scheme.

He said that the U.S. President did not visit Lebanon because the Israelis did not want him to do so on the pretext that there is no security in Lebanon. In this connection, Shams-al-Din praised the role played by the Lebanese security forces.

Shams-al-Din remarked that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad safeguarded Lebanese and Syrian rights as well as he could.

Shams-al-Din declared: We are not terrorists or enemies of peace. We are resistance fighters against Israeli occupation.

Muslim Clerics React Strongly to Clinton's Remarks

NC2810191494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Report by Muhammad Bishkar in Beirut]

[FBIS Translated Text] Friday sermon speakers in Lebanon today launched a fierce attack against U.S. President Bill Clinton's statements on his current tour of the region in which he focused on fighting Islamic movements. The President said that revolutionary Islam has become a thing of the past and that the future is for those who reconcile with the Zionist enemy.

In his sermon at al-Imam al-Rida Mosque in Beirut's southern suburb, His Eminence Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said Clinton sought during his tour of the region to perpetuate the Zionist enemy's victory over the Muslims and sympathized with the Zionists who were killed by Palestinian mujahidin in Tel Aviv. Clinton, Fadlallah added, failed to mention the victims of the brutal Zionist terrorism in both the Lebanese and Palestinian nations.

Fadlallah added that the U.S. President felt no shame when he was in the heart of the Islamic and Arab region to utter anti-Islam statements and say that Islam and Muslims have become a thing of the past and that he and his Arab and non-Arab allies represent the future. Fadlallah said: We tell Clinton that we, with our religion, are the future and you and your allies are the past, because the future is for freedom and right and the past is for colonialism that seeks to confiscate nations' freedom. Fadlallah concluded by saying that the United States cannot annihilate the world's Islamic movement because it did not stem from political slogans today to be dropped tomorrow but from faith and the Koran.

Elsewhere, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council in Lebanon, delivered a sermon at the Islamic Technical Institute's mosque in the southern suburb. Reacting to Clinton's statements, he said: Clinton, we tell you that Islam has the future and has never been a thing of the past, that the Islamists are the ones who belong to the future, and that peace will be useless if it does not achieve Muslims' rights, characteristics, humanity, and freedom.

Shaykh Shams-al-Din said the resisting Muslims will continue to fight the Zionist scheme with arms, intellect, and culture and will counter this scheme with Islam, justice, and culture no matter how long it takes. He added that Israel will not be able to legitimize its usurpation of Palestine from the Islamic nation no matter how it tries to perpetuate its occupation and Judaize Jerusalem.

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Journalist on Clinton Tour, Jordanian Peace

NC3110163794 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Oct 94 pp 1, 14

[Article by Talal Salman: "The Antihistory Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bill Clinton began his voyage into history by advocating a celebration of history.

This man without a history who comes from the post-history land arrived with the illusion that he was contributing to a new history of a region that barely knows its place, identity, or historical role.

There was no room to make an error just out of courtesy to others. The first stop had to be at the first stage of antihistory. Thus, the stately motorcade halted and the "President" bowed his head in respect for the martyr in his awesome tomb, for the first treaty was no longer misbegotten, alone, or weak. This was a loyal gesture to the man who tried to wring history's neck but instead was killed by it. Yasir 'Arafat also needs such a gesture to penetrate further into the inferno of the war against his "youth" and "early days," which gave birth to his potential heirs, and to preclude the deadly flash that would give rise to a Palestinian "Husni Mubarak." The fall of one Anwar al-Sadat is enough.

The gesture might also fortify the king, not only against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other allies of necessity who "belong to the past, not the future" as Clinton described them, but basically to fortify him against those who "inherited" the throne of his great grandfather in al-Hijaz [Sharif of Mecca Husayn Bin-'Ali], he who believed himself ally and partner and took comfort in the promise that he would regain the land and the caliphate that the "Ottoman" had usurped for long ages but that the "Westerner" had come to restore to its rightful owners.

In al-'Aqabah a "Hashimite" again stood waiting for the commander of the Western campaign to act as peace guide for him. He had accomplished all his "wars" and it was time for him to be reassured about the throne, which had always stood on top of a volcano. Because he did not want to taste the bitterness experienced by his great grandfather or meet a similar fate as his grandfather [King 'Abdallah], he took the precaution of turning the signing ceremony into an awesome occasion: the whole world bearing witness to the promise and the leader of the superpower giving a written guarantee.

From al-'Aqabah on the Red Sea to the 170-km Wadi al-'Arabah running all the way north to the Dead Sea, history was witness and martyr.

Although the royal protocol masters intentionally neglected to invite some of those who created that land's history and made it possible for the wayfaring grandson to be king over it, a group of those who sleep within the bosom of this historic land in Mu'tah, the Jordan Valley, and Yarmuk [reference to the dead of early Muslim battles] were watching in deafening eternal silence the events of the ceremony as organized by the U.S. President, a transient guest of history.

In that land repose some of those who made worldwide territorial history in a bygone age. He who rules by virtue of his claim to be their scion does not have the right to forget them today.

Should the name of Ja'far Bin-Abu-Talib [killed in early Muslim battle] be accidentally forgotten? Mu'tah is his very address.

Is it possible to set aside names like Abu-'Ubaydah Bin-al-Jarrah, a stalwart of Bisan; or Sharhabil Bin-Hasanah, of valiant fame in Kurayyimah; or Ma'adh Bin-Jabal al-Khazraji? Is it forgivable for him who rules by virtue of their memory to forget men still "living" around him like Zayd Bin-Harithah, 'Abdallah Bin-Rawahah, 'Amr Bin-al-'As, Dirar Bin-al-Azwar, al-Harith Bin-'Umayr al-Azdi, Sa'id Bin-al-Harith Bin-Qays al-Sahmi, al-Harith Bin-al-Harith al-Sahmi, and several of Khalid Bin-al-Walid's sons? [all early Muslim warriors]

Can a Hashimite disregard this procession of the prophet's companions who used the dust of the road for a pillow on their journey between one Qibla [Mecca] and another [Jerusalem]?

The burden of history is heavy and it is impossible to run away from it or dismiss it through forgetfulness.

When Clinton took his stance as a witness between the two parties signing the treaty, he found it necessary to reminisce over their personal histories. Rabin is a fighter who has spent his whole life fighting for the sake of a state for his people and then for the sake of peace for his people. The king has spent his life fighting against history to take revenge on his own people for his grandfather's death and to establish a state for his throne, whose army is far more important than its people. The throne is quite distinct from the land. If the land goes, the throne stays. If the territory expands or contracts, the throne is neither affected nor saddened. Kings are not sad. Kings only rule.

The grandfather is more important than the people. Where, therefore, are the rest of the grandfathers? Why was only one remembered, particularly the one who wanted to defeat history, so he entered it but never came out of it at all.

The prohibited land will become the homeland for everyone. The valley of mines will become the valley of dreams. The desert will bloom with roses.

Historic poetry in Wadi al-'Arabah is beautiful.

This is the age of merrymaking. This is peace, so there are no hostilities or enemies any longer.

The enemy has no title anymore. The title has now been expanded to include all victims, grudges, aborted dreams, broken hopes, as well as the gold-plated image of tomorrow.

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Your ancestors have no title anymore. The residents have increased in number and the passerby has been mixed up with the original resident, the casual with the true resident, the martyr with the criminal, the messenger with the investor, and the agent and tourist with the promoter, so much so that the land has no longer any real owners. Then came peace. Among those celebrating the peace, not one owns an inch of that land.

But they have every right to celebrate: They acquired this land by the sword, and they also got the peace.

But this peace brings with it many promises of war.

In Cairo Clinton announced, with the support of Husni Mubarak, that 'Arafat promised him he would proceed with his war against the terrorists, his former comrades-in-arms, until the bitter end. He confirmed that he will neither waver nor weaken until he completely annihilates them so that he can build the peace of the brave with Israel after that.

The Cairo war is still open, also in pursuit of the same peace of the brave.

As for the king, he pledged to extract the root of the opposition, particularly those who claim they are fighting in the name of religion.

The enemy has new names and all of these names are inside the country.

Peace for those who are outside is not necessarily the same peace for those who are inside.

War with external parties is impossible, but war internally is easy. Here we have the generals who never once fought against the outside extending their hands to the new allies pledging to wage the internal war together until the very end.

Damascus is fortifying itself while waiting for its guest who comes with the morn to talk to it about peace after having witnessed the accomplishment of a new chapter of this peace.

Do you know that peace did not figure in that royal ceremony?

Damascus probably does not intend to go to war outside, but it will certainly not participate in the wars that will take place internally, the wars against history, be they in its past, present, or future.

Damascus cannot be outside of this history: It is its main and topmost headline.

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'High-Ranking' Official Cited on U.S. Position

MM3110170094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Clinton Understood al-Asad's 'Initiatives'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—The summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton the day before yesterday showed an American "understanding" of Syria's position on the negotiations and the way of achieving a "just and comprehensive" peace in the region. That was clear in the U.S. President's emphasis to the Israeli Knesset that the Syrian president "is serious about peace," and in the fact that he assured the Israelis that Syria "has made the strategic choice of establishing peace" with them.

A high-ranking Syrian official has confirmed to AL-HAYAH that President Clinton showed "more American understanding of the Syrian position" on the establishment of peace in accordance with the Madrid formula. He pointed out the following new points in the U.S. position:

1. President Clinton's affirmation that peace between Syria and Israel should be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the land-for-peace principle. That means a U.S. "commitment" to the principle of full withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights occupied in 1967. The official says that the two UN resolutions call for full Israeli withdrawal from "the territories occupied in the last conflict," in compliance with the provisions of Resolution 242.

2. Washington's recognition of Syria's security needs and acknowledgement that the proposed arrangements should apply to both the Israeli and Syrian sides. This is one of the important issues over which there has been major disagreement between the Syrian and Israeli negotiators. While Israel proposes that the security arrangements should only apply to the Syrian side (before it could determine the final line of withdrawal) and to cover a 9-km stretch, Syria insists that the arrangements should be "balanced and equal" in relation to the demilitarized zones, zones of reduced arms, and early warning systems. Clinton has come out in support of the Syrian position. He said: "Peace should provide security for both sides not for one side at the expense of the other."

3. The U.S. President's confirmation of the Syrian "interest" in "strategic" peace and his call for a "peace of the brave" give new signals to the Israelis to make them "promise" full withdrawal from the Golan to allow discussion of other peace details. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin hinted at that when he said that he was "ready to make concessions" for peace with Syria.

4. The U.S. President's "desire" to see an "improvement" in U.S.-Syrian bilateral relations "in times of peace" and in the interest of the states of the region. On that point, U.S. diplomatic sources, in a statement to AL-HAYAH, linked the development of relations to the signing of a peace agreement with Israel. They said that "the list of states sponsoring terrorism (which includes Syria) is important but the peace process is also important."

A Syrian official, however, has told AL-HAYAH that there is no link between the two. He said that "it would be an exaggeration to say that they are linked." He pointed out that relations "improved considerably after the al-Asad-Clinton summit meetings in Geneva and Damascus, compared to the past years of the Cold War before Syria joined the peace process." He did say, however, that "they are not at their best. We hope they will be like other relations."

As regards al-Asad's initiatives, they go "beyond the diplomatic public initiatives" made by Syria previously "without departing from its known position on peace for decades," according to a Syrian responsible source. Foremost among these initiatives is al-Asad's commitment "to establish normal peaceful relations with Israel." In Geneva it was only announced that Damascus was prepared for "normal relations for the region." Al-Asad's words are seen as the answer to the Israeli question about Syria's "concept" or "understanding" of peace and whether that included establishing diplomatic relations with it, opening of borders and normalization, and opening an Israeli embassy in Damascus.

There was also President al-Asad's call for peace "that would enable the Arabs and Israelis (instead of just peoples of the region) to enjoy security, stability, and prosperity." The senior official says that that is in harmony with Syria's old position on peace "which disappeared because of the Western attitude toward Syria."

Furthermore, the Syrian president declared that he would continue to work "in the same way or in a more effective way, if there is one," to establish peace "more quickly." That is seen as an indication of a possibility of raising the level of negotiations or of a resumption of bilateral negotiations. The Syrian official said that Syria is ready "to do anything that would contribute to progress in the negotiations once Israel commits itself to full withdrawal."

Russian Envoy Cited on Kozyrev Visit, Ties

JN3110175094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Russian Ambassador in Damascus Viktor Goguitidze has commended the courageous position of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the peace process. He said Syria's role is central to the establishment of peace in the Middle East region.

In an exclusive statement to a correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, today, Goguitidze added: We are for just and comprehensive peace. We

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also support Syria's demand for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of exchanging territory for peace.

The Russian ambassador to Syria went on to say that there can be no comprehensive peace in the region without Syria. Experience has shown that barring a comprehensive peace, we cannot entertain the notion of achieving stability and security in this sensitive part of the world, which is close to the borders of the Russian Federation.

The ambassador underlined the importance of the visit Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will make to Damascus tomorrow, Tuesday, in these critical and important circumstances currently experienced by the Middle East. He added: We are friends with Syria. Moreover, as a cosponsor of the peace process, we have to hold consultations with Syria on the issue of achieving just and comprehensive peace. He indicated that Kozyrev will discuss with Syrian officials the possible contributions Russia can make toward the achievement of the objectives of the peace process in the region, particularly on the Syrian track of negotiations, which Russia deems the most important of all. During the visit, Kozyrev will also discuss bilateral ties and the means of improving and promoting them in all areas, particularly since Russia and the Syrian Arab Republic are bound by strong traditional ties in several areas, the Russian ambassador concluded.

Paper Comments on Casablanca Summit, Arab Rights

JN0111075294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 1 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Editorializing on the Casablanca conference, the newspaper TISHRIN says: Certainly, skipping the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace and putting forward ideas, proposals, and plans for economic cooperation with the Israeli occupiers before ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories does not at all serve Arab rights. Nor does this approach contribute to forcing Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and respond to the requirements of a true peace. This approach is, in fact, a gain for Israel and further complicates the situation in the region.

TISHRIN asserts that the core of the conflict has never revolved around forms and formulas of cooperation between the occupier and the victim. Rather, it has to do with occupation, aggression, expansion, seizure of territory, and eviction of Arab citizens. Therefore, finding a true solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict must be based, first and foremost, on ending occupation and enabling the Arabs to regain their territories and restore their usurped rights.

The paper goes on: Israel has sent a large delegation to the Casablanca conference, comprising experts, officials, ministers, and businessmen. This certainly shows that Israel wants to pick all the fruits of peace by itself, notwithstanding that this peace has not yet been achieved and without it responding to its requirements and obligations.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria has been aware, all along, of Israel's objectives by promoting ideas on economic cooperation and infiltrating the Arab arena; namely, to control Arab resources. This is why Syria has refused to take part in the multilateral talks. This stand has been viewed with understanding and satisfaction, in view of Syria's credibility in dealing with the conditions and foundations of peace and its responding to its requirements. The same applies to the Syrian attitude toward the Casablanca conference. In this context, President Hafiz al-Asad has said: We will not attend the multilateral meetings or other meetings that stem from them because we think that any action undertaken under the current circumstances is in the interest of Israel alone.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Heads Meeting on Military-Political Situation

LD2910171994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The press office of the presidency reported to BAKHTAR Information Agency that Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], presided over a meeting held this morning. It was attended by Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, Supreme Court president of the ISA; Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, minister of city planning and housing and deputy leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami; Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohamad 'Ali Javid, deputy of Harakat-e Eslami and minister of planning; Hojjat ol-Eslami Mohammad Akbari, spokesman and head of the political committee of Wahdat-e Eslami Party; Ahmad Shah Mas'ud; Mohammad Hoseyn Anwari, minister of labor and social affairs and head of the Military Committee of Harakat-e Eslami; Alemi Balkhi, president of the Central Council of Wahdat-e Eslami Party; and Kazemi, member of the central committee of Wahdat-e Eslami.

In the meeting, talks were held on the military and political situation of the country and decisions were made in this respect.

Rabbani Briefs Cabinet on Political Changes

LD3110220594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Presided over by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, a high session of ministers was held today. The press office of the president's office reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai spoke at the beginning of the today's session and requested the esteemed president to give some information to members of the cabinet about the recent political changes in the country.

The esteemed president spoke about the meeting of the jihad leaders in Jalalabad [as heard], talks and meetings with UN Special Envoy Mahmoud Mestiri and other (?involved persons), and stated the position of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in this respect. The esteemed president said: The efforts of all personalities and the United Nations toward bringing an end to the fighting should be made inside the country and should comply with the realities of our society. We support any practical act for the introduction of a cease-fire and the restoration of peace and stability in the country.

On the proposal of Mr. Mestiri, esteemed Prof. Rabbani said that this proposal and view is under consideration at the moment.

Mas'ud Meets With UN Special Envoy Mestiri

LD2810173494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud [former minister of defense] met today with esteemed Mahmoud Mestiri and the accompanying delegation. A correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency reported to us that esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud met and held talks, this afternoon, with esteemed Mahmoud Mestiri, UN special envoy, and the accompanying delegation in Jabalsaraj. In the talks and meeting, which lasted for four and a half hours, esteemed Sotorios Mousouris, esteemed Afghan personalities, esteemed Dr. Mohammad Yusof, former prime minister, esteemed Dr 'Abdol Samad Hamed, esteemed 'Abdol Satar Serat, and esteemed Soltan Mahmud Ghazi participated too.

Mojaddedi Calls For Rabbani To Relinquish Power

LD2810174994 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with Radio Message of Freedom, esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi asked leaders of the coalition not to cause misery for our oppressed nation any longer, and sooner than later choose the path of sensibility and understanding. Esteemed Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, interviewed yesterday morning by Radio-TV Message of Freedom on the political situation in the country, said: Rabbani, Sayaf, and Mas'ud should, taking advantage of the existing opportunity, give up monopolism and transfer power to a provisional administration. Esteemed Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi added: The leaders of the coalition, especially Rabbani, Masud, and Sayaf should have now learned that by using tanks and guns they cannot rule the Afghan nation. Answering a question, Esteemed Sebghatollah Mojaddedi said: Masud, Sayaf, and Rabbani should abandon their shameful [words indistinct] because they have lost everything. They face complete humiliation and defeat, and despite claiming state power, they, in the opinion of the nation, have nothing in their control. Esteemed Sebghatollah Mojaddedi added that leaders of the coalition should be forced, by all means, to give up power-seeking, and that they should surrender to the nation.

Government-Opposition Clashes Continue

HCC Forces Capture 17 Troops

LD2810201494 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Two commanders and 15 soldiers of the coalition administration have been captured by the High Coordination Council [HCC] forces. A responsible source of the general command of HCC

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forces told a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that in the course of [words indistinct] operation, the HCC forces captured two commanders by the names of Kamran and Gholam Sakhi, as well as 15 soldiers of the hireling coalition in the west of Kabul. [words indistinct]

Kabul Clashes Resume After 5 Days

LD3010114994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting between the warring sides in the Afghan capital resumed this morning after a five-day cease-fire. According to the Central News Unit from Kabul, in the course of this fighting, fighter planes belonging to government forces bombarded regions under the control of the opposition in western and southwestern Kabul. In the meantime, several locations in central Kabul came under rocket and heavy artillery fire from the opposition.

According to hospital sources, today's battles in Kabul left over 50 dead or wounded. A cease-fire had been established between the warring sides in Kabul last Tuesday at the request of a political delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UN envoy for Afghan affairs.

Rockets Hit Kabul; Air Force Responds

LD3010171894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Residential areas and public utility installations were the target of dozens of rockets of Golboddin's militia today. According to a report by a source of the general command of Kabul garrison, Golboddin's militia targeted residential areas of Kabul with 43 rockets and mortar shells over the past day. As a result of the savage attacks, 12 defenseless residents of Kabul were martyred and 27 others were injured. The rocket attacks of Golboddin's militia caused the destruction of three residences.

The warplanes of the Air Force of the country this afternoon bombarded the concentration points and fortifications of the militia in Benihesar and Khayrkhana hills. As a result of the air raids, dozens of the militia were killed and injured in those areas. Similarly, in the course of those attacks, the militia's two set of heavy weapons were destroyed.

A security source said: The bombardment by the country's warplanes took place when, after a few days of calm, Golboddin's militia fired with absolute savagery dozens of rocket into the residential areas and crowded places in Kabul. To prevent the intensification of this kind of savage attacks, the Air Force of the country subjected to air raids the concentration sites and fortification of the militia, which resulted in loss of life and material for the murderers of the people.

Air Strike Kills, Wounds 136

LD3110161594 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The infamous band of the Supervisory Council [headed by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud] and its communist friends subjected to aerial bombardment residential areas in the south and southwest of Kabul yesterday afternoon. The Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports to us that after the coalition forces suffered consecutive defeats in different battlefields, the leaders of the hireling coalition yesterday afternoon bombarded residential areas in Chahar Asiab, Pol-e Sokhta [west of Kabul city], and Abadak area in Lowgar Province in retaliation for their loss of life and material. They have inflicted loss of life and material on our innocent compatriots. The report says that the infamous band of Mas'ud violated a three-day cease-fire which he had announced at the mediation of the Iranian delegation, and have fired into the residential areas west of Kabul with [Stalin's] organs [multiple rocket system] and heavy weapons. As a result 136 of our innocent compatriots, who had been to buy food in the market, were martyred or injured.

Dozens Killed in Kabul Clashes

LD3110163594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There were heavy clashes this morning in the Pol-e Charkhi area, southeast of Kabul, between the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar and those of Borhanoddin Rabbani. At the same time, there were clashes between government and opposition forces in the west and southwest of Kabul.

At least three times today, government fighter planes bombed areas controlled by the opposition in the west, southwest, south, and southeast of Kabul.

Central and northern Kabul, which are under the control of Afghan Government forces, were hit by dozens of opposition missiles and heavy artillery shells.

It is said that dozens of people were killed or wounded in today's battles in Kabul.

Hezb-e Eslami Secures Kabul-Jalalabad Road

LD2810200094 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear viewers of Message of Freedom television: The checkpoints along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway were completely removed a few days ago on the instruction of the brave and faithful leadership of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan, and security posts have been set up along the highway so that no one illegally extorts money from passengers, local people, and haulage vehicles, and so that no one causes

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them any problem. The security posts carry out the task of maintaining complete security along the highway. As a result, praise be to God, people are moving along this very important transit road of the country with full confidence, and encounter no danger.

Dear viewers you also see that the other day all checkpoints along the Kabul-Gardeyz highway were removed on the direct instruction of the faithful and brave leadership of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan and the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Commentary Urges UN, U.S. To Pressure Hekmatyar

LD2910201794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Oct 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. State Department has asked Golboddin Hekmatyar to open food supply routes to Kabul. The BAKHTAR Information Agency's political commentator in this respect writes:

While the efforts of the United Nations to resolve the current problems in Afghanistan have increased, a press statement by the U.S. State Department touched on important issues and to a large extent identified the causes. Golboddin Hekmatyar was asked in the statement to open roads for the residents of Kabul city, so food supplies will reach them during the coming harsh winter. The opposition was asked to cease firing rockets and artillery into the ruined capital.

In the statement, support was expressed for UN efforts to the solve the differences. Neighboring countries were asked to give assurances of preventing the official or illicit supply of weapons from those countries to the warring factions in Afghanistan, and thereby assist the cessation of war and the escalation of peace and for all countries of the world to give financial aid for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

In the statement, deep concern was expressed about the cultivation, production, and smuggling of drugs. The statement by the U.S. State Department announced that country's backing for UN efforts to end the hostilities and the blockade of Kabul.

From where do the present problems of Afghanistan emanate? This is a very fundamental question which occurs to everyone, and luckily the world is convinced, now more than before, that Kabul has been destroyed by Hekmatyar and the destruction of this ruined city continues. The hopes of our Muslim people to establish a stable and Islamic government have turned to despair by Hekmatyar's warmongering policy, hostility, and power-seeking. Kabul is besieged by Golboddin Hekmatyar's forces, and the UN's humanitarian aid and supply of food encounters problems. Now that the efforts of Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri have expanded to remove the blockade and to put an end to the hostilities, through his warmonger proposals and deeds, Golboddin Hekmatyar wants to block their implementation.

If the world and the United Nations really want the restoration of peace in the land of the Afghans and are concerned about drugs, the best and the shortest way is to pressure Golboddin to the extent of his elimination. Otherwise, not only will our people's miseries go on, but also the concern of the world, especially the United States, and the United Nations will stay as they are.

India

Three British Hostages Rescued in Uttar Pradesh

BK0111071394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The three British citizens held hostage by suspected Kashmiri militants have been rescued from a hideout in Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. Agencies report that the rescue followed an encounter between the kidnappers and the Uttar Pradesh police in which two policemen and one kidnapper were killed. Police sources said the house where the hostages were kept was raided following information from the fourth hostage, an American, who was rescued yesterday in Ghaziabad. Police stormed the militants hideout at about four [2230 GMT] this morning and found the captives in chains. The freed hostages are Mr. Rhys Curgel Partridge, Christopher Miles Croston, and Paul Benjamin Ridout. The police personnel who were killed are station house officer, Mr. Jovial Yadav, and Constable Raj Kumar. The identity of the killed militant is not known. A massive combing operation has been launched to nab the militants who escaped from the hideout.

Britain today said it is pleased with the cooperation it received from the Indian authorities in securing the release of three of its nationals from the militants. A British high commission spokesman said that this in New Delhi.

Minister Sees Kashmir Elections 'Within a Year'

BK3110143294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir within a year. In an informal chat with newsmen in New Delhi today, he ruled out the possibility of having international observers for the proposed elections in the state. Mr. Chavan said the Election Commission is competent to insure that the elections are held in a free and fair manner.

Mr. Chavan described his just concluded visit to Canada and the United Kingdom as very useful.

Editorial Applauds Warning to ICO on Kashmir

BK0111093294 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 1 Nov 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Timely Warning to ICO"]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Whether India's warning to the Islamic Conference organization [ICO] members that their support to a Pakistan-sponsored resolution on Kashmir at the UN General Assembly might affect relations with New Delhi was wise will remain a subject of debate. A lot could perhaps be said on both sides. As the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Salman Khursheed, has pointed out, several ICO members privately oppose Pakistan's attempt to internationalise the Kashmir issue and assure New Delhi that they are for a bilateral solution of the question. That Mr Khursheed cannot be faulted on a wrong interpretation of his diplomatic exchanges is borne out by the actions of many ICO members, including the one that persuaded Pakistan not to press its anti-India resolution on human rights at Geneva earlier this year. Having had that assurance, it might be asked, did India need a formal cautioning of the ICO? The reason can be traced to post-Geneva developments. First, the ICO foreign ministers' decision at their recent meeting in Islamabad to form a contact group on Kashmir clearly contained hostile intentions. The decision did not square with the ICO position not to encourage Pakistan over its proposed move against India at Geneva. Secondly, a major Islamic country, Iran, which joined China to prevail upon Pakistan at Geneva, has given enough reason for India to suspect its motives. President Rafsanjani's cancellation of his visit to India could be interpreted as Teheran's anger at New Delhi's resentment over the activities of Mr Rafsanjani's envoy, the Deputy Speaker of Iran, in meeting sectarian Muslim leaders when he was here some time ago. In sum, India has already let it be known that it would not tolerate so- called Islamic countries to fool around on "Muslim" questions in this country.

Mr Khursheed's warning to the ICO is only a formalisation of India's hard-headed decision not to be apologetic about Kashmir. The individual ICO members have been put on notice that their double-faced policy is not acceptable to India. It will not be surprising if New Delhi decides to be blunt about rejecting any external interference on the pretext of any "concern" being expressed on "Muslim" interests in India. This attitude is necessary to enable individual ICO members, with whom India has excellent relations, to realise that they cannot embarrass India at international gatherings to keep their domestic Islamic hotheads under check. The ICO would not have the courage to criticise China for its treatment of Muslim rebels in Sinkiang. It would not question Pakistan's treatment of Shias and Qadiyanis, and the way Turkey, Iran and Iraq deal with their Kurds, as though these Muslims are not Islamic enough. India's warning should set individual ICO members to think individually about their bilateral relations with this country. Those who have no stakes in them may go their chosen way. But others who value these ties cannot be allowed to get away by being double-faced—not even on the plea that they must accommodate the pressure from their domestic Islamic fundamentalists.

Iran

IRNA: Clinton Repeats Predecessors' Errors

LD2710225194 Tehran IRNA in English 2038 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has called on the U.S. allies to consolidate their position towards Iran, reduce the level of their economic relations with it and refuse arms sales to the country. The call comes simultaneous with the visit to the Middle East of the U.S. President Bill Clinton which is made with the idea of consolidating the position of the Zionist regime and unifying that of the Arab states in a direction ensuring the interests of that regime.

Clinton is in the Middle East amid open protests by Arab Muslims who are voicing their anger at his presence in that part of the world. To divert the attention of the peoples of the region from current developments there, and prevent the world people from learning the feelings of regional Muslims the Americans have brought up the proposition of western relations with Islamic Republic of Iran, a strategem that Washington has consistently used in relation to Iran to divert world attention from its secret dealings in connection with the Middle East.

Now 15 years since the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in Iran Washington is still unable to adopt a new clear-cut policy in relation to Iran since it is unable to understand the policies of Iran on international developments.

Clinton continues to repeat the same errors of his predecessors, not knowing perhaps that his own situation for perpetuating the past policies of Washington in that respect is less easy that it was for his predecessors. During the war years with Iraq, and in mid 80's that was marked by falling in international markets of crude oil prices, Iran's foreign exchange revenue dropped to less than dlrs six million in 1986, despite that and also despite sanctions against Iran, the Iranian government managed to hold out economically, procuring whatever it needed, including parts for its American military planes and oil industry which meant the U.S.-led economic sanctions had fallen short of purpose.

In 1992 and during the assembly of the heads of state of Group- 7,, the U.S. called on its allied governments in the group to reduce their relations with Iran and make it impossible for the country to renew its economic life. But despite that bid by Washignton, Iran's relations with her business partners in Europe and Japan went ahead at a new pace.

Informed sources say Iran's negotiatons with her western creditors and the Japanese for rescheduling her more than dlrs 10 billion debt to them and for ensuring lasting economic relations with them is a trump card Iran has in

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its dealing with the United States on the international scene. They say the U.S. has been disappointed in its hope that Iran's foreign creditors would not agree with it on rescheduling Iran's debt. The Americans tried to take the negotiations to the Paris Club with a view to turning the table there to the detriment of Iran. But five years ago the Iranian government had turned down a proposed recipe of the International Monetary Fund for a model and independent domestic economic adjustment, and having well anticipated and prepared for that development in Paris practically made it impossible for the Americans to impose their dictates to others in that club.

Despite that, internationally Iran is now at a better shape than previously and the efforts by Washington to perpetuate economic sanctions against Iran and encourage its allied countries to reduce the level of relations with Iran is not likely to harm the economy of Iran. On the basis of foreign reports the value of Iran's exports to the six industrially developed countries in 1991 was dlrs 10.3 billion against more than dlrs nine billion of exports to Iran by the same countries that year.

The same sources said the value of exports to Iran of the same countries in 1992 was upwards of dlrs 12 billion. The increasing exports to Iran, by those countries in 1991-92, was indication of their implicit trust in Iran's healthy economy.

The National Economic Development Plan of Iran has been successfully undertaken by employing both indigenous sources and human potentials and by importing, from the industrialzed nations, the hardware necessary for its infrastructural development.

Iran's successful employment of indigenous resources and better application of economic potentials in the country has helped reduce its reliance on foreign suppliers and has thereby prevented the U.S. scheme from materializing.

Western media, among them the french AFP, say Iran's international business partners will not easily forego the chances they have in the developing markets in Iran and in their long-term business relations with Iran. In a recent report from Paris AFP said in its survey of Washington's stand towards the Iranian government that there is only very little likelihood that the U.S. allies would heed Christopher's call on U.S. allies to solidify their ranks towards Tehran which, Washington has accused of having supervised 'state-led terrorism', since it said, many of America's allies have very fruitful economic relations with Iran.

AFP says even this year Tehran arranged to reschedule her business debts and certain of its short-term debts with good terms. It said for Iran, the agreeements for resheduling those debts can open the way for receving fresh credits.

The same agency says the American's call on its allies for refusing arms sales to Iran applies especially to the Russians. Boris Yeltsin recently comitted himself not to offer any more arms to Iran once the current agreements with Iran have expired. In its report, AFP claims previously the Russians sold as much as dlrs one billion worth of arms to Iran including tanks and submarines and have just recently started delivery to Iran of remote controlled missiles.

A political and economic analyst in Tehran says the Russians now have to cope with many economic problems. The communist government of the Soviet Union has bequeathed Yeltsin's administration about dlrs 80 billion in foreign debts. He says under the circumstances the Russians have agreed to abide by new commitments with the idea of getting compensation from the American government funds. On the one hand the Russians have encouraged Iran to establish closer relations with her northern neighbors, that is the republics that border on the Caspian Sea, and on the other hand they have shown dissatisfaction with the American oil companies that have entered into contracts with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He said obviously the Russian government looks forward to protect its political and economic relations with Tehran. Political and economic relations with Iran in a stable Caspian Sea region will benefit all republics that have common borders with the Caspian Sea.

The same source in Tehran says the threats by Washington against Iran, and its call on its allied nations to reduce political and economic relations with Iran to a minimum is not a new scheme, but, he says, in light of the circumstances that are making Iran economically less dependent on foreign countries Clinton's choice to restage that same scenario against the Islamic Republic is now markedly ill-timed.

Commentary Views Failure of Clinton's Syrian Visit

NC2910075294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 29 Oct 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Zionist official admitted yesterday that during his visit to Syria, U.S. President Bill Clinton was unable to break the impasse the Damascus-Tel Aviv talks are at and that his proposal for a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with Syrian opposition.

Political analysts believe that the main reason for the failure of Clinton's efforts to reactivate the talks between Syria and the Zionist regime is the lack of a clear framework for the talks, as well as America's biased stand on this process. Three years ago, when the so-called peace talks between Arab governments and the Zionist regime started in Madrid and were followed up

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in Washington, land for peace and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 formed the basis of these talks. However, the Zionist regime's active diplomacy and extensive U.S. support for the Zionist regime changed the course of the talks, and the agreements that have been signed as a result of these talks have all been contrary to the framework that was established in Madrid.

The agreement on the Gaza-Jericho self-rule between the Zionist regime and the PLO has placed a very minimal piece of Palestinian land with a very limited sovereignty at the PLO's disposal; and this is at a time when according to the UN resolutions, Tel Aviv had to unconditionally withdraw from all of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The recent agreement between Jordan and the Zionist regime was also made outside of the Madrid framework. In this agreement, the occupied Jordanian territories were annexed to the territories of the regime occupying Jerusalem forever in exchange for some Palestinian territories for Jordan.

America's efforts to continue this transaction in the talks between Syria and the Zionist regime are considered to be the main reason for the failure of Clinton's efforts. Although Syria has accepted the principle of talks with the Zionist regime, it has always stated that it will not agree to compromise outside the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions. On the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242, the Zionist regime should unconditionally withdraw from the Syrian Golan Heights; however, the Zionist regime sets many conditions for doing so.

Clandestine Radio on Circumstances of Clinton's Tour

NC2810103694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Clinton's visit to some Middle East countries under the current circumstances can be seen as a manifestation of the importance the United States attaches to the problems in this region. Clinton's visit is taking place shortly after a special situation emerged in the Persian Gulf and the United States dispatched a considerable number of its army, navy, and air force to the area. Moreover, the Arab-Israeli peace process is progressing, Jordan has signed a treaty with Israel in Clinton's presence, and Syria is readier for a new round of talks with Israel.

While Clinton's visit to the Middle East manifests deep U.S. interest in this region's problems, it also clarifies the fact that from the U.S. point of view the situation is satisfactory—so much so that the ground for Clinton's visit was prepared, since if the situation had been different and some of the U.S. objectives not been fulfilled, Clinton definitely would not have gone on this trip and would not have undertaken a thoughtless and futile attempt.

Thus, with Clinton's visit to some Middle East countries, one should expect both the peace process between Israel and the Arab countries to be further accelerated and some of the regional conflicts and problems to be reviewed and assessed more carefully and ways to confront them studied.

Naturally, during Clinton's visit to Middle Eastern countries, the security of the southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf will fall within the scope of Clinton's discussions with the officials of these countries. Also, within the same framework, the discordant and sly policy of the clerical regime will also be discussed and examined, and ways to confront the Islamic Republic's efforts to harm regional security will also be viewed. And in relation with this, a common policy vis-a-vis the clerical regime may possibly be adopted.

Commentary Critical of Casablanca Conference

LD3110152394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Casablanca session in Morocco opened on 30 October with the participation of representative delegations from 60 world countries.

This session—convened with the aim of finding ways for the promotion and expansion of economic ties between the Middle-East and North African countries and linking the same with the world economy—is pursuing preplanned objectives, mainly putting an end to half a century of economic isolation of the Zionist regime in the Middle- East and North African countries. As a matter of fact, the Casablanca session ought to be considered in pursuance of the goals which had produced the signing of the Camp David agreement. Camp David was the beginning of the end of the Zionist regime's political isolation which secured the trend that culminated in the recognition of Tel-Aviv by the Arab countries of the Middle-East.

It is now in pursuance of the same policy that the Casablanca session will become the starting point for the official presence of the Zionists in the Middle-East and North Africa's economic equations, developments, and eventually, in the cultural dimensions.

It is beyond any doubt that the Zionist regime—the economic axis and child of Western capitalism, with its widespread offensive power—is after changing the economic and cultural characteristics of Muslim countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

An end to the Zionist regime's politico-economic isolation in the Middle East will spread its influence in the economic organs and structure of the Middle-East and will open the doors of the economic flourishment of the region which, due to its natural wealth and strategic

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location, will play a determining role in the future of politico-economic developments of the world. This will allow Zionism to renew their breath and achieve growth. Guaranteed economic grip and domination in the Middle-East is a planned principle that in the future will not only secure control over political developments but will also determine major cultural changes. This development will put an end to five decades of expenses that the West has borne for preserving the security of the Zionist regime.

Though the Casablanca session has been held with the (?definition) of such important goals, it should be kept in mind that implementing the program will not be possible so easily.

The direct and widespread presence of the Zionist regime in the economic organs of the Middle-East which will have deep cultural impacts, will lead to deep conflicts in the region, levelling the ground for a large-scale confrontation.

According to analysts, total negation of the politico-economic independence of the Middle East countries, the plundering the national wealth of the people in the Middle East, and a threat to their entire cultural and religious identity, are the main reasons for the confrontation.

The trend of the reawakening of the Muslim masses in the Middle East and their full awareness of the designs and large-scale presence of the Zionists, will act as the main obstacle in preventing the realization of such designs.

Paper Warns Casablanca Meeting Will Aid 'Zionists'

LD3110095594 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—A morning daily here Monday warned Arab countries against presence of the Zionist regime in their markets and said that if Israel could find new markets among Arabs, presence of Zionist agents in Arab lands "will also entail a form of cultural imperialism."

'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial commented on the gathering of nearly 2,000 politicians and businessmen from the Zionist state, Arab and other states in Casablanca, Morocco, last Sunday "to map out what is mistakenly billed as a new Middle East."

The paper made it clear that the participants in the meeting were trying to forge a new economic alliance which would only benefit the Zionist regime in a bid to find its way to the markets of Arab states. Quoting a Zionist newspaper as saying that Israelis were aiming at subjecting the Arabs to a new form of imperialism which it called as "economic imperialism," the paper noted that after the Casablanca meeting, "the Zionist claim on Arab land will be transformed into their claim on the Arab market."

By cancelling the long-standing economic embargo against the Zionist regime, the Arabs have opted for a new method of appeasing the Zionists, said the daily adding that the Zionist firms and their sister companies in the U.S. would establish an economic imperialism over Arab lands which will entail further economic misery for the Arab people.

"Economic activity and cultural influence go hand in hand," warned the daily assuring that people in Arab lands would "fulfill their Islamic duty to defend their dignity and honor."

Referring to the fact that a large mumber of Arab companies have boycotted the meeting, it recommended the Arab governments and nations to understand the "ramifications of allowing the Zionist businessmen in their midst." It noted that the economic inroads by the Zionists would be an "identity crisis among the Arab Muslim youth" who the daily said would be the target of the Zionist advertisements and commercials in its mass media.

The daily hoped in conclusion that the blood shed on the path of safeguarding Islamic culture in Arab lands to check the inroads by the Zionist culture has not been shed in vain.

Ex-General Arrested for Criticizing Government

NC0111113594 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 01 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 1 (AFP)—A former general and an outspoken Iranian nationalist was arrested here Monday [31 October] after having openly criticised the Islamic government, opposition sources told AFP Tuesday.

Azizollah Amir-Rahimi, 75, wrote an open letter to the authorities in September in which he condemned summary executions ordered by revolutionary courts and called for political reforms.

He also urged the formation of a "national salvation government."

Rahimi is known for his criticism of the way the government fought the 1980-1988 war with Iraq.

He was also an outspoken opponent of the imperial regime and was jailed several times before the Islamic revolution toppled the Shah in 1979.

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